

RANDOLPH COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY  
NEWSLETTER  
November, 2012

Ten members met at the library, Tuesday, Nov. 13, at 2:00pm, when the library closed, for our monthly meeting. Through the winter months, until we again go on Daylight Savings Time, we will be meeting in the afternoon for our monthly meetings, to avoid driving at night, in possible inclement weather to attend our meeting.

Two weeks ago, the end of October, the long standing shelter, on the hill overlooking the Mississippi River, at Kaskaskia State Park, near Chester, burned. This is a favorite landmark to citizens of Randolph Co., we have all enjoyed picnics, reunions, the fantastic view, many couples were married there. Concerned citizens have initiated a fund to rebuild this Shelter. Our first order of business was passing a motion to donate \$100.00 to the cause.

Two of our members, who also volunteer during our Tuesday hours, have completed a new publication for our Society, entitled "Short Stories of Randolph County." These stories are of various happenings in Randolph County, such as the first railroads, history of Menard Prison, information on the Underground Railroad, the Steeleville bank robbery, two of the first hangings in the county, and much more. The book sells for \$15.00 (.75 tax, IL res. only) and \$2.50 postage.

Our Christmas Party will be held on Tuesday, Dec. 11<sup>th</sup>, 5:30pm, at the Farmhouse Café in downtown Chester, IL. We will have a traditional holiday diner of Turkey & dressing/ham, served buffet style, the cost is \$11.00, incl. gratuity. Reservations have to be in by Dec. 5<sup>th</sup>. After dinner, we will play Holiday Bingo. We ask each of you attending, to bring a gift, (under \$5.) as a prize for the Bingo game.

We discussed, further, the plans for a "Research" Open House, that was brought up last month. It was decided to have it on Saturday, Jan. 19, 2013, beginning at 9am, until noon, or 2pm, if we have researchers needing more time. We will have volunteers there to show them around our library facility and assist them in their research. This will be a good time for newcomers to genealogy research. There will be refreshments

We have had a lot of researchers come into our library these past weeks, more from southern Illinois, but also from other states, as far as Calif. And Washington state.

We concluded our business with election of officers, many had filled their term limit, and new officers were elected to the vacant offices. Emily Lyons had served three years as trustee and was elected as the President for 2013. June James, who had served two years as president, was elected as V.Pres. Joyce Davitz had complete one year as secretary, and we elected her to a second year. Betty Wagner, having served one year of a three-year term for trustee, resigned her position as trustee and accepted the nomination as treasurer, and was elected. Virginia Mansker accepted the nomination to complete the remaining two years as trustee, that had been vacated, and was elected. Therefore our officers for 2013 are: Emily Lyons, President

June James, Vice President

Joyce Davitz, Secretary

Betty Wagner, Treasurer

And trustees: Augie Braun to fill Emily's vacated office, Virginia Mansker to fill remaining two years of Betty's vacated office and Lottie Braun, having one more year to serve in her office as trustee.

Betty Wagner told us about a Christmas Home Tour to be held on Sat. Dec. 8<sup>th</sup>, 1-4pm, at the Gordon House, near Sparta, IL. The admission of \$10.00 will go directly to fund fresh water wells in Kenya, Africa, a mission that Gary & Roberta Gordon have long supported. The Gordon House was built in 1865 and Gary and Roberta have been restoring it to it's original state. Decorated for Christmas, this house is a pleasure to see.

Emily Lyons reminded us of the second of three programs that will be presented at the Chester Public Library, about the Civil war--this second presentation to be held that evening at 7pm--urging us to attend.

Betty also told us about the Shadrach Bond, monument (first governor of Illinois), in Evergreen Cemetery, Chester, that had been damaged by a tree in a storm and efforts of she and others to raise funds to repair it. We will hear more about that later.

We wish you all a Happy Thanksgiving!

June James, Pres.