

Pleasants County Historical Society
Minutes of September 19, 2024

The Pleasants County Historical Society met on Thursday, September 19th at the Senior Citizen Center 209 Second St., St. Marys, WV. The meeting was called to order at 7 p.m. by President Dan Boley who led the group in the pledge of allegiance followed by a prayer by Vice President Tim Sweeney to begin the meeting.

PROGRAM

The agenda was amended to move the program to begin the meeting. President Boley introduced Lane Ogden who has presented several excellent programs previously and did so again in reference to the history of the local marble factory. Lane shared the history beginning with Mr. Alley who was the father of Naomi Alley Sellers, a well-known teacher in Pleasants County. He went into detail about Mr. Alley, the building and marble making process, the fire, the purchase by Roger Howdysshell, relocation to Paden City & the status today of Marble King. Many of the attendees contributed many memories including Frank Sellers, grandson of Mr. Alley, Shelba Brown, Patty McCullough, Larry Butcher & Dave Eddy. The group truly enjoyed this trip back in time & all the memories shared. Lane with technology assistance from Larry Lewis did an outstanding presentation. (A copy of his slides are included with the minutes.)

SECRETARY'S REPORT

The minutes of the June 20th meeting were sent by email to the membership for review by Sue Waggoner. Any corrections or changes were to be sent to her so that she could amend the minutes. Being no changes or corrections, the minutes were approved on a motion by Patty Bills, seconded by Charley Elder. The August meeting was the annual Family History Picnic. This year the Powell Family was honored. Those presenting were: Jay Powell, Max Powell, Steve Powell & Hal Powell with input & discussion from the other relatives in attendance. It was a great family celebration.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The treasurer's report was provided by Treasurer Charley Elder with a motion by Dave Eddy to accept and second by Patty Bills. Motion passed. The report will be filed with the minutes of this meeting.

DONATIONS

Charley Elder shared that we have received a \$100 donation from Sam Yoho & Seven Radio and \$50 from the Pleasants County Insurance Company.

CORRESPONDENCE

We received a thank you note from Millie Powell Farnsworth for the dinner & recognition of the Powell Family. She was very complimentary.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

DAR – Patty Bills

Patty had met with the commissioners & mayors to have Proclamations signed for Constitution Week. Pictures were in the newspaper. October 13th they will place a plaque in memory of Lafayette for the 250th anniversary of his journey placing plaques along the Ohio River.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY – Caryl Bishop

Caryl & Dan shared that officially the group would no longer be part of Habitat but they were still in the process of completing the necessary paperwork to dissolve the association. They reiterated the reasons for the change and will officially be called Raising Hope to Purpose. They will focus on repairs for families and will include an advisory committee to determine what projects will be done.

MILITARY – Tom Bishop

Tom shared that the AM Vets will begin their breakfast again the second week in October and are going to have their trailer at the Youth Ag Fair this upcoming weekend. Dan shared that he has spoken with Lane & he will provide a military tribute on November 21st to our veterans by combining his presentation on the WV & his visit to Normandy. Wants to be sure we publicize it well.

AV EQUIPMENT – Dave Eddy

Mr. Eddy shared that the equipment is Ok.

OBIT – Patty Bills

Patty provided a list of the obituaries that she shared and they will be filed with the minutes.

MUSEUM – Pam McFarland & Charley Elder

Pam was unable to attend due to Jim's health. She has asked that we find someone for this weekend and then schedule for the next few weeks. She was very appreciative of everyone's help. The group hoped that things would be better for her and Jim soon. Volunteers for the Museum are Scheduled as follows: Sept. 21 Dave Eddy; Sept. 28 Patty Bills; Oct. 5 Caryl & Tom Bishop; Oct. 12 Sue Waggoner; Oct. 19 Dan Boley; Oct. 26 Dave Eddy.

Charley shared that everyone has been busy working to get ready for Youth Ag Fair at the Old Farm Museum. The Fair begins tomorrow evening. He shared the hours and invited everyone to stop by over the weekend. Friday, Sept. 20 – 5-8 p.m.; Sat. Sept. 21 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. & Sun 12 -3 p.m.

OLD BUSINESS

- 1) Dan shared that he & Sue had met with Chris to work on the webpage. It was looking very professional and would go live as soon as the officers & curators submitted their pictures and bio.
- 2) Dan updated the group on the grant submission for the Micro Film Reader to our senators, Donna Boley & Mike Azinger. He was hopeful that they would be successful in securing the funding. He mentioned there might be a shortfall regarding the cost due to the time that had passed that we might need to cover if we got the grant.

NEW BUSINESS

- 1) Dan discussed the need to prepare for the 2025 fundraiser of the History Alive Program. He stated that the Chautauqua type presenter for Harriett Tubman was superb. He hoped we could choose a well known character this year.
- 2) Dan proposed the idea of taking a donation at the November meeting to support our veterans. After a lengthy discussion deliberating between national and local programs, Charley Elder made a motion that any funds collected be given to our local AM Vets to use as they deemed best. The motion was seconded by Claude Rolston and passed unanimously.
- 3) Caryl Bishop shared that Patty had inquired about the books written by Oren Samberson that were used when we were in school to study for the Golden Horseshoe Test for the DAR project. Caryl said she had decided that she would donate 20 copies each of them to the Museum to be sold for a donation. Everyone commented on their memory and thanked her for her generosity.
- 4) Dan mentioned that Sam Yoho would be our presenter next month sharing the history of Seven Range Radio

Adjournment

On a motion by Dave Eddy, seconded by Alice Rolston the meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m. The next meeting will be Thursday, October 17th.

Those in attendance were:

Dan Boley, Charley Elder, Sue Waggoner, Dave Eddy, Caryl Bishop, Tom Bishop, Larry Butcher, Patty Bills, Ralph James, Jackie Ogdin, Lane Ogdin, Nina Ogdin, Lisa Riggs, Mike Riggs, Karen Riggs, Al Thacker, Carol Statler, Alice Rolston, Claude Rolston, Patty McCullough, James Brown, Shelba Brown, Tim Sweeney, Frank Sellers, Ruby Sellers, & John Armstrong.

Those in attendance at the August 11th Family History Picnic were:
Charles R Elder, Sue Waggoner, Tom Bishop, Caryl Bishop, Marsha Boley, John R Bills,
Dave Eddy, Pat Bills, Hal Powell, Kate Grose, Tim & Charlene Sweeney, Dick & Jenette
Powell, Joyce & Brad Statler, Rose Smith, Max Powell, Axton Powell, Ryan, Rachel,
Zander Powell, Jane Powell, Randy & Lizabeth Bullman, Jimmy Powell, Millie
Farnsworth, Steve & Jennifer Powell, Dave Powell, Phillip Powell, Tammy Powell, Mindy
(Bullman) & Joe Wilson, Jay Powell, Pam McFarland, & Dan Boley.