

Notes from 28 April 2011 Historical Society Meeting

General Interest

Posted by: Linda Cottrell Liss

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The Roane County Historical Society, Inc. met on Thursday, April 28, 2011 at the Roane County Library for their regular monthly meeting with twelve members present. Rick Greathouse, President, called the meeting to order. Mr. Denver Gandee led the opening prayer and the pledge to the American flag was recited. Susan Tucker, Recording Secretary, read the minutes from the March meeting and Carol Board-Westfall gave the Treasurer's report.

Linda Liss, Corresponding & Membership Secretary, reported that cards had been sent where needed. Members present signed a sympathy card for the family of Rev. Willis E. Anderson, long-time member of the R.C.H.S., who died April 26, 2011.

Liss reported the present membership at 199, which includes four new members: Betty J. (Koon) Moore, Peggy L. (Keffer) Starcher, Brenda M. (Golden) Whited, and Nancy L. Mullins.

Liss reported on an inquiry about a Civil War grave marker that had been found recently beside a remote Roane County road near Walton. The marker was for T. J. Cottrill who served the Union - Co E, 12 WVa Infantry. He has been identified as Thomas Jefferson Cottrill, b. c-1837 and died 8 Jan 1897 in Harrison Co., WV, son of Thomas Cottrill and Delilah Loughery. Records indicate that he was buried at the I.O.O.F. Cemetery in Clarksburg. How the marker wound up in Roane County is a mystery. Anyone having information about this marker or how/why it made its way to Roane County, please contact Mrs. Liss at WVRoots@aol.com

Society member, John Sagert of Florida, was present. He was in West Virginia researching the Sinnett family. In particular he is looking for the final resting place (cemetery) for John S. Patrick Sinnett [1787-1869] who is known to have served as the first postmaster (about 1856) of the Walton, Roane Co., WV area. Where was that first post office located?

Mr. Sagert donated a copy of his book, "The Sinnett Family Tree" to the society's library.

Linda Liss reported on the R.C.H.S. 2011 Essay Scholarship. To encourage young people to learn of their family genealogy, the society is presenting a \$500 scholarship to a deserving Roane County High School senior who writes an essay on their family history. This year's \$500 scholarship goes to Miss Shelby Lynn Montgomery of Gandeeville, Roane County, who wrote about her Montgomery ancestors. The scholarship will be presented to Miss Montgomery during the high school's, May 24th awards ceremony.

Carol Board-Westfall brought and displayed the plaques for Roane County churches and the Goad house plaque from our 2011 project recognizing structures 100 years old or older. Photos of the plaques were taken to include in the society's library. She also reported that she had received information on Roane County Congressman, Harry Chapman Woodyard. She will proceed on working out details for this 2012 plaque project.

The meeting adjourned with refreshments being served to Susan Tucker, Rick Greathouse, Carol

Board-Westfall, Marvin Stemple, John Sagert, Linda Liss, Hazel Gandee, Denver Gandee, Phillip "PJ" Miller, Brenda Whited, Patty Wyatt and Bernard Wyatt.

The next scheduled meeting of the R. C. H. S. will be held on Thursday, May 26th at 7:00 p.m. at the Roane County Public Library. Members are urged to attend and guest are always welcomed.

For more information, contact Linda Liss at WVRoots@aol.com