

## **Rabun County Historical Society Minutes, February 19, 2009**

The Rabun County Historical Society was called to order by George Prater at 5:30 with the following members present: Carol Turner, M.E. Law, Christopher Curran, Nannette Curran, Odelle Hamby, Ron Barden and Linda Barden.

The January minutes were approved on a motion by M.E. Law, seconded by Linda Barden. The Treasurer's Report showed \$5,485 in income, including \$5,000 from the county budget. Disbursements were \$422.79, with a checking account balance of \$15,097.70.

### **Old Business**

The ad placed in The Clayton Tribune produced no volunteers, but there has been a significant increase in the number of visitors which may be a result of running the ad.

The Woman's Club will hold their Arbor Day meeting on February 20, with Carol Turner, Linda Barden, and M.E. Law working overtime to accommodate the visitors.

Linda Barden is in the process of writing a job description for volunteers as instructed, but she has not yet completed it.

The leak in the storage room was addressed by county maintenance, and will be rechecked after the next heavy rainfall.

### **New Business**

A flag and spotlight are needed for the flagpole. George Prater will take care of acquiring same.

Rosemary Dixon expressed a desire to film the museum for internet TV. A motion was made by Linda Barden, seconded by Nannette Curran, and approved by all to postpone action on this item until a later meeting

John Avery has offered to donate 25 years of Brown's Guide to Georgia magazine. A motion was made to accept this donation with the stipulation that the donor understand that we can only use information directly relating to Rabun County, and that other information may be discarded at the discretion of the Rabun County Historical Society. This is for space considerations, as well as conforming to our mission statement of Rabun County history only. Christopher Curran made such a motion, seconded by Linda Barden and approved by all. M.E. Law will contact Mr. Avery.

A researcher in New Jersey has requested assistance in visiting African-American cemeteries in Rabun County in April. Linda Barden has emailed him the information, and George Prater volunteered to take him to one African-American cemetery near his home. All are on private property.

A request to the county must be submitted in writing to be included in next year's budget. M.E. moved and Christopher Curran seconded a motion to request \$5,000, which was approved by all.

The American Association of State and Local History had requested that we join at a cost of \$250. General discussion showed no interest in joining this organization.

A letter from Eleanor Short was read by George Prater. Her concerns were: (1) Wednesday open hours were changed by 30 minutes without consulting her. (2) She feels her years of work on The Clayton Tribune files are not valued and are being discarded.

After a very lengthy discussion, the members present reached this consensus:

- (1) Wednesday hours were altered by 30 minutes in order to gain volunteers who could commit to being present on Wednesdays. On more than one occasion, visitors found the museum building was locked during open hours. New volunteers could not stay until 5:00, and the membership voted unanimously in January to change the open hours in order to keep the doors open on Wednesday. Apologies are extended to Mrs. Short for not consulting her prior to the vote about the 30 minute change.
- (2) Mrs. Short's contributions to the Rabun County Historical Society over a long duration were admired by all. Everything she has worked on for years is the basis of all the work that is presently ongoing. The filing system has been reorganized in order to make research easier, faster, and more complete for tasks like writing magazine and newspaper articles, making museum exhibits, and responding to requests from a significantly increased number of visitors. Several dozen subject files have been created, in addition to the retention of chronological Clayton Tribune files. No important historical information that is unavailable in other formats or locations has been discarded.

The March 14 special open day for the Southern Literary Tour will be staffed by M.E. Law and Nannette Curran from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. The special Lillian Smith exhibit was created by Carol Turner, Linda Barden, and Nannette Curran.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:20 pm. The next meeting will be March 19, 2009 at 5:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Carol Turner, Secretary