
President's Update

Jackson County History and Genealogy Society
Pascagoula, Mississippi

Barry McIlwain, President

June 10, 2009

Ranger Speas delighted May meeting audience

The 35 members attending our May meeting, featuring an in-character monologue portraying Mrs. Eugenia Phillips, a Southern sympathizer who was imprisoned at Ship Island off the Mississippi coast in the summer of 1862, were treated to a compelling and entertaining history lesson.

The mother of nine children, Phillips was married to a lawyer and former Alabama congressman. Her first arrest came in Washington, D.C., in 1861, when she was accused of spying for the Confederacy. She later moved to New Orleans where she was arrested in 1862 for violating Gen. Benjamin Butler's Woman's Order. She was sentenced to Ship Island as punishment.

U.S. Park Ranger Stacey Speas' portrayal is set in early 1870 as Mrs. Phillips recounted her wartime experiences for her children and grandchildren.

An Interpretive Park Ranger for the U.S. National Park Service, Speas is stationed at Gulf Islands National Seashore located in Mississippi and Florida.



Pioneer Program to recognize early descendants



Watch for details on a new project the Society will soon be officially announcing and offering to the entire county.

Come hear the exciting plans and activities our committee chairmen will present at our

**BUSINESS MEETING
TUESDAY, JUNE 23, 2009
6 P.M.
PASCAGOULA PUBLIC LIBRARY
MEETING ROOM**

We want everyone's input and help in choosing our TOP TEN GOALS for 2009-10. Our committee chairmen welcome your participation.

Free Door Prize drawing for those present will be a new Cemetery Book.

May 26, 2009

Dear Society Members:

We would like to express our gratitude to the Society for your generosity in providing for our lodging during our recent trip to the National Genealogical Society Conference in Raleigh, North Carolina.

We enjoyed the opportunity to see and hear some of the top genealogists in the country, whose books we've purchased and whose columns we've read, present sessions on many topics of genealogical interest. We feel that the Conference taught us much that will be helpful to us here in the department. We returned with renewed enthusiasm for continuing to increase our knowledge and to put that knowledge to use in the department.

With much thanks,

Sherry Owens & Renee Hague

Pascagoula Public Library

Genealogy and Local History Department

COMING EVENTS

October

3 Library Porch Book Sale during Zonta Festival

29 Krebs Cemetery Tour Program

2010

April 23, Spring Gala, LaPointe-Krebs House

Society Officers (2009-10)

Barry McIlwain, President
Joanne Anderson, President-Elect
Sherry Owens - Vice President, Genealogy
Kevan Hall, Vice President, Buildings & Museums
Renee Hague - Corresponding Secretary

Liz Ford - Recording Secretary

Linda Grimes - Treasurer

Kay Doyle, Director

Jim LeBatard, Director and Chaplain

Kathie Keene, Director

Else Martin - Editor, *The Journal*

Committee Chairmen

Tommy Wixon, Publications; Kathie Keene,

Programs; Sherry Owens, Genealogy;

Kevin Hall, Museum and Buildings;

Else Martin, Historian; Roger Hansen,

Military; Leann Bosarge, Membership;

Melanie Moore and Callie Randle, Spring Gala; Kay

Doyle, Grassroots; Walter Mansfield,

Archaeology; John Ford, Constitution and

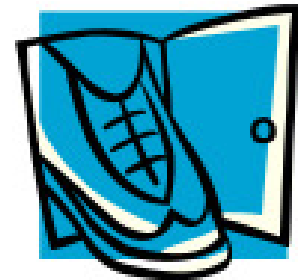
By-Laws; Peggy Saliba, Scrapbook Historian;

Don McKee, Birding, and Pat Haynes,

Hospitality, and Anne Moore, Grants..

Footnotes

Our new Dell computer has arrived and will be installed in the Pascagoula library's Local Genealogy and History Department. It is dedicated to Society use, and one of the first projects it will serve is the Pioneer Family Program.



Back journals and publications have been inventoried and organized in a rental storage unit. Orders for back copies have been filled and books will be on sale at the June 23 business meeting.

About 100 copies of the Cemetery Book have been sold. Journal 25 has arrived and is being distributed and extra copies sold.

Long-awaited Jackson County cemetery book provides valuable new resource to county

Betty Rodgers, local historian, said it best: “The book is a work of love by those who documented and did the footwork, and is a phenomenal job by those who stood until the last of the information had been edited and printed.”

The project that got nicknamed “The Book” is a beautiful hard-bound deluxe edition of 719 pages containing nearly 50,000 names of those interred in

“The book itself is beautiful and would be a wonderful addition to a personal library as well as being available in public places.”
-- Liz Ford

the more than 250 cemeteries inside Jackson County, including all cities, communities and rural areas. A byproduct of the research was the discovery of lost cemeteries and, in some cases, improved cemetery care.

The first publication that includes all known African-American cemeteries, the book also has more than 50 cemeteries that have never been previously recorded. Editor Else Martin’s footnotes add genealogical information to many of the entries. Military buffs will discover a number of military graves that have been identified.

Maps are provided for many of the cemeteries. A description of each cemetery’s location is included and often contains interesting historical information on the cemetery. A comprehensive index lists first and last names for ease of searching. In many cases, it even includes cross-referencing by maiden names of married women.

“The book itself is beautiful and would be a wonderful addition to a personal library as well as being available in public places,” said Liz Ford, chairman of the Pascagoula Historic Preservation Committee. “It will be a great asset to those who research for personal, business or legal purposes.”

Tommy Wixon, past president of the Jackson County Historical and Genealogical Society, said

recording burials from the Colonial era to the present gives a significant amount of knowledge about the people and their history of Jackson County.

“The vast majority of these records are not available from official government records,” Wixon said. “Only legions of hard workers tromping through brambles and brush could have produced such a valuable document.”

The genesis of the book came from three earlier volumes published by the Genealogical Society in the 1960’s and 70’s called Requiem I, II and III. Over the years, local historians and researchers added cemeteries and updated existing ones.

The new cemetery book is the first major work to be published by the Society since 1989 when it issued the definitive “The History of Jackson County, Mississippi,” a 438-page hardbound compilation of histories of families, places, institutions and events.

“The Cemeteries of Jackson County, Mississippi: A Requiem” is now on sale at the Pascagoula Public Library’s Local Genealogy and History Department located on the second floor. Copies are \$50, plus \$3.50 tax for Mississippi residents. Mail orders may be e-mailed to Owens at pggen1@jgrls.org or posted to JCHGS, P.O. Box 984, Pascagoula, MS 39568. Add \$6 for shipping and handling.



Members admire new Cemetery Book.