

## LEXINGTON COUNTY MUSEUM COMMISSION MINUTES

**JUNE 6, 2017**

**Members Present:** Bill Kiesling, Edie Harmon, SaBrina Jeffcoat, Joyce Mize, Cathy Stutts, Jim Riddle and Laura McMahan.

**Members Absent:** Mary Sharpe (family illness) and Rhett Inabinett

**Others Present:** J. R. Fennell

Commission Chairman Bill Kiesling called the meeting to order at 5:30. Roll was taken and a quorum was present for the conducting of business. The minutes from the April 4, 2017 were reviewed. An error in the minutes was identified by Edie Harmon. The amount raised from the silent auction at the Museum Gala was corrected to \$750.00. A motion was made by Joyce Mize and seconded by Cathy Stutts to accept the minutes as corrected. The motion passed unanimously.

**Friends of the Lexington County Museum Report:** In the absence of Friends President, Sylvia Clyburn, J.R. Fennell reported that the Museum Gala raised \$8700.00. The date of the 2018 Gala has tentatively been set for February 17. There was discussion about the hours of the Gala and the evening activities. The museum commission is very appreciative to the Friends for their support of the museum and its programs.

**Old Business:** Director Fennell reported on the activities of the museum. A World War I presentation on the evening of May 30th brought about 30 people to the museum. Participating in the program were J.R. Fennell, Trish Shandor and Ken Robison. Many of the WWI artifacts were gifts to the museum from the family of Benjamin Tillman Meetze.

The Spring Open House held on May 2nd was attended by approximately 250 people with a variety of activities including several living history events, clothes washing 19th century style, and baking bread in the outside oven. The Friends sold items and furnished refreshments to those who attended.

The Murders and Mysteries program will continue on the evening of June 10th. The addition of a portable speaker system is considered to be an asset for the popular program.

An update on the annual Family Day to be held on June 24th from 10:00 - 1:00 was given. There are plans for educational hands-on programs including clothes washing, archaeologists presenting information and blacksmith demonstrations. Free hot dogs with drinks will be served.

Open bids for the construction of the outside restrooms proved to be higher than anticipated. The county will purchase the pre-fabricated restrooms themselves.

Work continues on the McMahan Research Library. Six hundred and ninety books from Devin McMahan's private collection have been moved and shelved.

Renovations to the museum structures continues. At present the porch of the Lawrence Corley cabin is under repair. The steps have been saved and stored. SaBrina Jeffcoat shared information about a saw mill that may have the wood needed for the flooring. The goal is to have the repairs completed by June 24th, Family Day. The roofs on both the Fox House and the Koon House need to be repaired.

The county's PIO continues to video programs and place these on the county website and Facebook. On May 14th, a program focusing on the museum's quilt collection was posted. Trish Shandor and Wendy Frankle told of the history of many of the quilts from the extensive collection at the museum.

Mr. Fennell is still in contact with the Younginer family concerning the Center Colored School located on Spring Hill Road.

**Monthly Reports:** The reports for the months of April and May were accepted. The question was asked about how the groups that come to the midlands area receive information about the museum. Many outside groups come for baseball, softball, fishing and similar activities. Mr. Fennell responded that the Visitors Bureau is to handle the brochures to these out-of-town groups.

**New Business:** The museum does plan to have a program on August 21st to recognize the solar eclipse. The Astronomy Club from Augusta, Georgia will come to assist with the proper way to view the eclipse. Concerns about the danger to the eyes was voiced by Laura McMahan. The public schools in Lexington area have closed for the day. Lexington is a prime location to observe this the event.

Name tags for the commission have been ordered. These can be worn at museum events to enable commission members to be easily identified so they can help with directions and questions.

Mr. Fennell will be speaking June 9th at the Lowman Home on superstitions of the Dutch Fork Area, on June 10th in Conway on the SC Dispensary System and general history of alcohol, and July 2nd to the S.C. Genealogical Society at the SC State Archives on the Life of Dave the Potter. He will also be at Lexington County Public Library on July 11th at 6:30 speaking on the Columbia Army Airfield and Airbase. On August 27th, Trish Shandor will speak at Bethlehem Lutheran Church located in the Dutch Fork Area about quilts from that area of the county.

The summer program for children, "Hands on History" will begin on June 20th at 10:30 am.

**Acquisitions:** The following acquisitions were presented and accepted for the museum's collections: A quilt in the pattern of "Springtime Blossoms" or "Lazy Daisy" (ca. 1900) from the Counts family donated by Sherri Russell. The quilt is in the WCTU (Women's Christian Temperance League) colors of blue and white. Donated by Horace Harmon from the Schneider family were a 19th century passport, a photo of John C. Calhoun, "Callie" Harmon (Horace Harmon's great uncle) in a scooter car, a photo (ca.1918) of John Schneider (a great uncle of Horace Harmon) in World War I uniform with family, a portrait of the Schneider "Boys" during WWI, Schneider's leather gaiter from WWI and a pair of stirrups belonging to D.

H. Sullivan. The books for the Devin McMahan Memorial Research Library were donated by Laura McMahan (mother).

The motion to accept the acquisitions was made by Edie Harmon and seconded by Joyce Mize. The motion passed unanimously.

The motion to adjourn was made by Edie Harmon and seconded by Joyce Mize. With no opposition, the meeting adjourned at 6:40. The next meeting will be on August 1, 2017.

Respectfully Submitted,

Laura S. McMahan, Secretary