

**March 21, 2022, Pana Pioneer Heritage Guild** met at Oak Street Station, with Tim DeSherlia and Gerald Rector, co-chairman; Bill Outis and Millie Meyerholz, Paul Meyerholz and new member, James Denton present. The minutes of the Feb. 14 meeting were accepted as read; copies distributed to those in attendance.

Financial report furnished by Malinda McClure, who is recuperating from recent surgery, now at home. She included the fact that Format for General Fund has been changed to agree with back statements period, rather than calendar month. (Up to 35 days.). General Feb. 14, 2022:

Beginning balance, \$710.83; Income, dues, \$20, Boy Scout fund, \$100=\$120. Expenses, copies, \$17.10 and Boy Scout donation, \$100, = \$117.10. Ending balance, \$713.73. Boy Scout Fund (2-28-22), beginning and ending balances, \$4,098.51. No activity. Building Fund, 2-28-22), Beginning and ending balances, \$3,142.71. No activity.

#### Officers' Reports

Tim related that he and Henry Morgan, Decatur Boy Scout working on his Eagle Scout rank had gotten together regarding the General Store roofing project. R.P. Lumber will have the cedar shingles available. Henry had sent a text asking Tim if he needed a building permit. Consensus among members was "No." It is an existing building with no perimeter changes planned.

He also obtained an estimate of a fourth of oak wood, rough sawn for the Pryce house floor reconstruction. Planks will be of the same thickness, tongue and groove style with three fasteners in each floor joist the length (25 feet) of the floor, using square head nails through the face of each board for looks as well as usefulness.

He talked with the Moweaqua sawyer regarding two each of 25 -foot length and 19-foot width logs, and 14 footer that will go on the faces of the house. Beams will be crafted for the floors to sit upon. Some fir ones will be cut to support the beam center. Some are creosoted, to which the strong odor was questioned. He had until Friday, Mar. 25 to make the order. Jim Mewes of Pocahontas was to come that week.

#### Lockbox Opened

Millie, secretary, divulged having been contacted with 15 minutes notice to go to Peoples Bank & Trust a few days prior, for the drilling of the guild's lockbox. One key was inaccessible, and the location of the other key was unknown. Cost for drilling, \$80, which she paid and submitted bill for same amount. The lockbox had not been seen/opened since 2004 and no one knew what was inside it. See Old Business for contents.

Millie suggested a post office box that would cost \$40 quarterly/every three months. Tabled for reconsideration.

Tim announced that after Mother's Day in June, work will commence on the general store project. Henry will commence framework for the porch and building roof. The sawyer will cut  $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch slabs of oak for the porch eave, which will have an overhang of 16-18 inches. The porch will be toe-nailed into the store roofline. Gerald and Henry's father and grandfather will be working with Henry. Tim said that money left over from that project will go into work on the Foster house. The Pryce house foundation will be cleaned up, and Stanley Elvers will use a machine to sort out the foundation stones stacked along the north fence.

Keith Cearlock, not present, has recommended that the guild's IRS documentation be done by paying a CPA to file on the guild's behalf. The program is difficult to understand and there are many pages of information to be filled out. Therefore, at present, the IRS situation remains unresolved. Efforts to re-submit for federal non-profit status began Dec. 4, and we still have not received the confirmation, which must come by mail. We learned that since the first of the year, the IRS is short of workers who do the mail output. The majority of available workers are doing on-line documentations.

No action was taken.

#### New Business

Malinda was approved to create/design logo for correspondence of PPHG. Motion to approve with unanimous response.

Gerald will plant Indian popcorn and has three ears with seeds. He also wants to put "toothache plant" in the garden and has seeds from Oklahoma for that.

#### Lockbox Contents

Millie brought out the items taken from the PBT lockbox:

"Letters, Bible and jar donated by Mr. Raymond Schmitz" small (3 X 4 ½ inches) Bible with black cover and closure inscribed: "David Andrew his Book presented by his Father March 16th Ohio 1858." The pages are edged in gold. Three letters written in script, one in 1865. These were donated to the guild after the last resident of the house in Oconee, Raymond Schmitz, tore it down. Also mentioned was "a jar" that was among those artifacts found inside the wall next to the attic, but no description was included and the whereabouts of that item was unknown. The Bible contained 726 pages of The First Book of Moses Genesis the Old Testament, 81 pages of Psalms, The related to David "in Metre," and the New Testament, 221 pages. It was published in Philadelphia by J.B. Lippincott & Company in 1856.

There are four ribbons with the following information: Soldiers & Sailors Reunion, Pana, Aug. 31, Sept. 1 & 2, 1887; Christian County Soldiers & Sailors Association, Taylorville, Aug. 14 & 15, 1889; Soldiers Reunion, Nokomis, Aug. 14 & 15, 1894; Shelby County Veterans Association, Shelbyville, Aug. 8 & 9, 1895.

FYI: Historical information about the acquisition appeared in two feature stories, February 1985 and later the same year, in Pana News-Palladium. The first involved the transcript of the letters and other details. The second article was information and photographs provided by descendants of David and Louisa Andrew.

Other items include buttons/badges from the festival's early days: first, 1983, yellow; 1984, seven green; 1985, three silver; 1986, 10 yellow, 1987, one red, and 1990, five light blues. (Note: a small box in PPHG storage contains many more buttons.). Original by-laws, insurance policies from Kay Miller and KMRM, 1982, and Nov. 4, 1883; two Coal Creek Festival flyers, May 15, 1983 (over 70 vendors plus demonstrators) and June 3, 1984, with mention of antique medicine wagon and show. VHS tape listing inventory of Foster, Pryce and Neil buildings, May 22, 1999.

In personal matters, Tim has been involved in the making of the movie, "Letters Home," a Civil War story. He had met two Sundays ago with the director. A second movies script is being written.

Garden and buildings/grounds will be among topics at the Monday, Apr. 4 meeting of the guild, at 6:30 p.m. to be held at the kitchen of Keith's building, former Schaper site in Industrial Park on Bear Creek Road.