

September Meeting Minutes

by Priscilla Eastridge

The Crawford County historical & Genealogical Society met on September 12, 2005 at 6:30 pm at the Crawford County Jr.-Sr. High School in the Media Center with Jim Kaiser, President, presiding.

Guest speaker was CCHGS member Karen Gleitz who gave the history of the Mills on Big Blue River. Starting South of Fredericksburg, is the Dee Ott Mill at Totten Ford Bridge. This mill was a grist and sash saw mill and was built in the early 1870's and powered by one water wheel. The first Mill at Milltown was built in 1818 by brothers Seth and Zebulon Leavenworth. It was torn down in the fall of 1958. It was powered by three 48" water wheels. The third Mill, the Jenner Mill, was located about two miles south of Milltown at the mouth of Slick Run. A wooden dam was built there. This mill continued to operate until about 1889. The first Rothrock Mill coming down Blue River was originally built by Hiram Babcock in the 1840's. It was operated and later purchased by John Rothrock, grandson of Solomon. It was a saw and grist mill and operated until 1890. The second Rothrock Mill as you travel down the river was built by Solomon Rothrock, son of Peter, in the 1820's This mill was a sash mill and grist mill. It quite operating in 1852 and was powered by water directly from the dam. On the river below Thompson's Chapel is the area knows as Beech Bottoms. There was a mill located on the Crawford County side. It was known as the John Bell Mill. The thrid Rothrock Mill on the river was built by Philo Rothrock, another son of Solomon, in 1856. It was a saw and grist mill and a planer. A second mill was built on the site in 1909 by Philo's sons, Luther and Henry. It was sold in the 1940's to the Linnfoot family, and was eventually purchased by the state of Indiana. It was torn down in 1986. The fourth Rothrock Mill was built by Abram Rothrock, Heny Peter's son, in 1853. It was a grist, sash sawmill and handle lathe. It burned January 18, 1913. Sharp's Mill was built in 1845 by Horation Sharp. It was a grist and carding mill. It burned April 18, 1897. Another Mill on Blue River just above Buzzard Roost was the Moser Mill. William Henry Harrison built a grist and sash sawmill in 1805-1806 on a tributary of Blue River, known as Harrison Spring. He also had a cabin, a distillery, and an orchard on the site. The fifth Rothrock Mill was built by William Rothrock, another son of Henry Peter, in 1880. It was built near the foundation of a mill built by Swan/Argabrite. It was flour, grist, and saw mill.



Karen Gleitz traces the Mills of Blue River on her map. (photo by Becky Hammond Stetter)

It closed in 1950 and fell in July 1968. The sixth Rothrock Mill (chronologically the original) was built by Peter Rothrock in the 1820's. It was a flour, grist, and saw mill. It was closed in 1910 and torn down in 1920.

Business Meeting:

The minutes from the August meeting were read and approved. Sharon Morris, Treasurer, gave the financial report.

Richard Eastridge reported that the historical marker for the Marengo Academy should arrive in October.

The Proctor House Committee reported that the premises have been mowed, trimmed, trees trimmed, a tile put across the path to the Cemetery for easier access, and lights are hooked up in preparation for the Music Fest on September 17. Concessions will be available as well as books, memberships for sale, and chances sold for the Proctor House quilt which will be given away to the winner on October 15 at the Sorghum Festival. You do not have to be present to win this quilt. Volunteers should be there an hour early to help get things ready. Lots of donated gifts to be given away. Becky Hammond Stetter made a motion that some property rules

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be set up for the Proctor House and grounds, now called Proctorville. The motion carried.

Marietta Taylor has donated an old rug for the Proctor House.

Evelyn Jackson has received brochures on how to go about getting the huge cherry tree in the cemetery put on the state registry.

A motion was made and carried to price the new publication Crawford County Deaths from the English News for \$20.00 plus tax and shipping.

Larry Burmeister and Sharon Morris are going to work on getting Crawford County marriages completed.

A Pioneer Day will be held in April 2006 at the Patoka Elementary School and the society will have volunteers to demonstrate candle dipping, quilting, churning butter, and other activities from pioneer times.

Vice President and Archives Coordinator Densil Wilson gave a report on August activities of the Archives. Volunteers had worked 18 days, 138 hours, and had six people visit for research.

A motion was made by Karen Gleitz, seconded by Mary Wiseman, and carried by all members present to send Becky Hammond Stetter's son, Brian who is in Kuwait, a six months subscription to the Clarion News.

Proctor House Restoration Report

by Becky Hammond Stetter, Committee Secretary

September 1, 2005

The Proctor House Restoration Committee called a meeting for September 1, 2005 at the Proctor House for a special inspection by Tom Johnson of Keystone Restorations of New Albany, IN.

He lives in Salem and has been in the restoration business for 34 years.

Present were Evelyn and Hugh Jackson, Mary and Bobby Wiseman, Densil and Sandra Wilson, Richard and Priscilla Eastridge, Jim and Doris Kaiser, Diana Enlow, Sue Parks, Sharon Morris, Harry Wood, and Becky Hammond Stetter.

Mr. Johnson was very encouraging on the overall condition and concurred, "you saved a jewel."

We have some unusual features — one very nice feature he noted was that the front of the house is true Flemish Bond. Expensive—every other brick turned—very strong, perhaps strongest there is.

The committee held a short discussion on workers needed for the September 17 music fest.

Planning was tabled for the regular society meeting of Monday September 12.