History Meeting Notes

Oct 25, 2023

The meeting was called to order at 6:45 pm. Those in attendance were: Kyle McGurk, Bernadette Boyle, Russell Gayer, Tom Frasier, Jesse Gagnon, and Max Poye. Russell said a short prayer and the discussions began. Bernadette Boyle brought mini pecan pies to share with the group.

Most of the evening was devoted to the 1880’s flour mill which was located directly north of the Goshen Cemetery on what is now called Mill Branch,.

In his letter, dated 10 Feb. 1882, Rev. Moses Dutton had this to say about the mill; We have a fine steam mill underway of construction at Goshen. It is being put up by Dr. Kelly, Tom Cannon, and Jho. Tunstill. It will be running by harvest time.

Jesse Gagnon shared some great information about grist mills, where millstones came from, and how the stones ground grain into flour.

The group speculated where the steam engine (new technology at the time) was made and shipped from, and how it might have been transported to Goshen. Same holds true for the millstones. Everyone agreed this would be a great topic for further research.

Max Poye told of an interesting rock structure on the old Freda Morris place. It is a semi-circle of dry-stacked stones with a hole in the center. Was it used to crouch behind and fire a gun through the hole?

We also talked about the importance of documenting and preserving modern history. With the advent of the electronic age, even fewer people are leaving hardcopy records and photos for future generations to access.

Tom Frasier mentioned the construction of the magnificent barns that used to dot our landscape. When shipyards began building ships out of steel instead of wood, many of the ship carpenters turned to building barns. Tom helped convert an old barn into a library for Mary Lightheart’s books.

Jesse is going to invite his friend Mike, who works for the Arkansas Archeological Survey to speak at a future meeting.

Russell proposed having a Veterans Day Dinner on November 11th at 4pm. The event will be held in the Education Building next to the United Methodist Church. Volunteers to supply chili, soups, and sides are needed. Veterans will eat free and we will charge $10 for adults and $5 for kids with proceeds going to the Goshen Cemetery.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 23rd. Time and location to be determined later.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 pm.