

MINUTES of the ATHENAEUM SOCIETY

January 8, 2015

Vice-president Dougherty convened the January meeting of the Athenaeum Society at the Hopkinsville Holiday Inn.

Roll was called, and twenty-five members were present. Minutes of the December meeting were read and approved. The financial report was made. The balance was \$2456.33.

Excuses for previous absences were given by Whitney Westerfield, Carter Hendricks, and Chris Gilkey.

Vice-president Dougherty told members to make suggestions about a location for Open Meeting. Suggestions need to be made by February 5<sup>th</sup>.

Papers were presented by Jason Powell, a member since 2007 and #25 in seniority and Whitney Westerfield, a member since 2010 and #29 in seniority.

Jason Powell files a lot and while he does, he spends part of his time contemplating plane crashes and his chances of surviving them. In "Could You Survive?," he depicts a crash that took place in 1972 in the Andes Mountains. The main character in this description of the event is Nando Parrdo who, as one of the survivors of the crash, spent months in the mountains before eventually walking to get help. He also described the many ordeals of Louie Zamperini, the subject of the book and movie *Unbroken*. Louis lived through a plane crash into the ocean, 46 days in a raft, and multiple Japanese prison camps. Both of these men had the strength, willpower, and courage to make it through these events, but we still don't know about Jason.

As State Senator, Whitney Westerfield was afforded the opportunity to make a trip to China and Taiwan. An organization called the American Council of Young Political Leaders organizes the trips in an effort to allow our young leaders to meet with business and political leaders all over the world. Whitney was able to climb the Great Wall, assess political issues, meet with government leaders and bankers, and view the court system. He also noted the westernization of China. There were expensive cars, shopping malls, and nice hotels. One mention of native China will certainly be remembered. The picture of a large man and his squatty potty still torments me.

Comments were made by Robert Sivley, Robert Ison, Hollis White and Ken Dougherty.

Presenters for the February meeting will be Ken Dougherty and John Soyars.

Respectfully submitted,

Dave Cavanah, Secretary/Treasurer

MINUTES of the ATHENAEUM SOCIETY

February 5, 2015

Vice-president Dougherty convened the February meeting of the Athenaeum Society at the Hopkinsville Holiday Inn.

Roll was called, and thirty-one members were present. Minutes of the January meeting were read and approved. The financial report was made. The balance was \$2170.13

Excuses for previous absences were given by Jim Adams, Frank Nash, Wendell Lynch, Lindsey Adams, John Soyars, Wynn Radford, and James Coursey.

Vice-president Dougherty asked for suggestions for the location of the Open Meeting. It was decided that we would meet again at Oakland Manor.

Papers were presented by Robert B. Sivley, a member since 1970 and #3 in seniority and Charles Russell Guffey, a member since 2005 and #22 in seniority.

It could not have been a surprise to many that Robert Sivley was a member of his college's debate team. Debaters must be prepared at any given competition to argue either side of a proposition. In "College Athletic Scholarship – Pro or Con?," Robert presented both the affirmative and negative positions. Both arguments were well research and well presented and would have made judging the presentation very difficult.

Frances Brown and Charlie Baker married and became Russ Guffey's grandparents. Before that each contributed to our country's war effort in the Second World War. Charlie fought in the South Pacific and would have been part of the force that invaded Japan if the war had lasted longer. Frances Brown used her training in biology to secure a job in what we now know was Oak Ridge, Tennessee. There, as we learn in "Small World Apart," she became part of the team that produced Uranium-235 that was used to produce "the bomb" that ended the war.

Comments were made by Rob Harper, James Coursey, John Atkins, John Freer, Edward Higgins, and William Turner.

Presenters for the March meeting will be Ken Dougherty and John Soyars.

Respectfully submitted,

Dave Cavanah, Secretary/Treasurer

MINUTES of the ATHENAEUM SOCIETY  
March 12, 2015

Vice-president Dougherty convened the March meeting of the Athenaeum Society at the Hopkinsville Holiday Inn.

Roll was called, and twenty-four members were present. Minutes of the February meeting were read and approved. The financial report was made. The balance was \$2255.24.

Vice-president Dougherty led the society in a tribute to Peter Nicolas. His loss will be felt by every member of the society.

Excuses for previous absences were given by Terry Fuqua and Steve DeMoss.

Vice-president Dougherty reminded members of both the Membership Committee and Nominating Committee that they would be called on for reports in April.

Papers were presented by Ken Dougherty, a member since 2001 and #19 in seniority and John Soyars, a member since 2010 and #29 in seniority.

In his presentation "Duck Dynasty," Ken Dougherty threw us a curve. The family that he wrote about was not the Robertsons of Louisiana, but the Hautmans of Minnesota. Rather than being famous for their duck calls and reality TV show, the Hautmans are wildlife artists. The three brothers (Bob, Jim and Joe) have dominated the Federal Duck Stamp competition since 1987. The Federal Duck Stamp is important because the proceeds from that program (totaling more than \$800 million since 1934) have been used to purchase six million acres of waterfowl habitat in the United States.

John Soyars presented "The Doctor, the Magician and the Medium, which is an account of the interactions of Arthur Conan Doyle and Harry Houdini. The creator of Sherlock Holmes and the world's most famous magician met in 1920. Doyle appreciated Houdini's "magic" and assumed that he possess supernatural powers which allowed him to dematerialize and then rematerialize wherever he wished. Both men had an interest in "Spiritualism," so Doyle invited Houdini to take part in several séances where either Doyle's wife or "Margery" served as mediums. Houdini detected a rouse on each occasion and was openly critical. Lady Doyle responded by announcing that Houdini would die soon. A response like that would certainly make one think before commenting on papers.

Comments were made by Lindsey Adams, Terry Fuqua, and Robert Sivley.

Presenters for the April meeting will be James Coursey and Danny Gilkey.

Respectfully submitted,

Dave Cavanah, Secretary/Treasurer

MINUTES of the ATHENAEUM SOCIETY

April 2, 2015

Vice-president Dougherty convened the April meeting of the Athenaeum Society at the Hopkinsville Holiday Inn.

Roll was called, and twenty-six members were present. Minutes of the March meeting were read and approved. The financial report was made. The balance was \$1980.49.

Excuses for previous absences were given by Robert Cope, Wendell Lynch, Jim Adams, Mitchell Kaye, James Coursey, George Byars, Bob Ison, Russ Guffey, James Adams, and Hollis White.

Edward Higgins, representing the Membership Committee, nominated a potential member. He will be voted on in September.

Robert Harper, representing the Nominating Committee, nominated the slate of Ken Dougherty, Terry Fuqua, and Dave Cavanah for president, vice-president and secretary/treasurer for next year. The slate was accepted by acclamation.

Papers were presented by James B. Coursey, a member since 2009 and #25 in seniority and Danny M. Gilkey, a member since 2009 and #27 in seniority.

James Coursey presented "Andalusia and The Heritage," and his presentation is summarized by one paragraph within the paper: "In fact, architecturally speaking, never before or since in America has a building style so closely mirrored the political, social and economic environment that it came to rest in." The main players in the paper are Andrew Jackson and Nicolas Biddle. The main battle is the recharter of the Second Bank of the United States. One of the most interesting points to the story is that while these two bitter rivals battled on the national stage, the trait that they held in common was their love for their homes and their appreciation of architecture.

In September of 1948, everyone knew our next president would be Thomas Dewey. However, President Truman swept back into office with 303 electoral votes to 189 for Dewey. In "Why There Is No President Dewey," Danny Gilkey states that the Truman victory should never have been in doubt. Truman was an incumbent, the economy was booming, most Americans liked the New Deal, 57% of the electorate were registered Democrats, and Truman campaigned harder and was more likable than Dewey. Had the Chicago Daily Tribune paid attention, they could have saved themselves lots of embarrassment.

Comments were made by Robert Sivley, Robert Ison, Robert Harper, Hollis White, and William Rowlett.

Presenters for the May meeting will be William Rowlett and Lindsey Adams.

Respectfully submitted,

Dave Cavanah, Secretary/Treasurer

MINUTES  
ATHENAEUM SOCIETY  
May 7, 2015

Vice-president Dougherty convened the Open Meeting of the Athenaeum Society at Oakland Manor, Hopkinsville.

Thirty-two members and forty-seven guests were present. Vice-president Dougherty welcomed all and explained that both members and guests were invited to comment on papers. He then asked members to introduce themselves and their guests.

Papers were presented by Dr. William M. Rowlett, a member since 1970 and #4 in seniority and Lindsey Adams, a member since 2012 and #31 in seniority.

In "Floating Down the River," Dr. Rowlett used the occasion of Open Meeting to tell us a little about his life with particular emphasis on his life now as a self-described "older person." He also told us and our guests a little about our society. There were people mentioned with whom many of us never attended a meeting – people like Charles Petrie, Gladstone Major, and Bud Hudson. He talked about Charles Tilley and Frank Yost, Mark Schweizer, and Bob Sivley and Jim Love. He also gave us reason to celebrate when he announced that he had decided to float down the muddy Athenaeum rive a while longer.

"The Reluctant Legend" presented by Lindsey Adams detailed the life of William Tecumseh Sherman. Sherman graduated from West Point and proved to be one of the brighted students in his class, but his time at "The Point" Was not an accurate predictor of future military success. Sherman was not enthusiastic about military matters and left the academy with the rank of private. The years that followed were filled with service in Florida, South Carolina, Georgia and California. He left the army in 1853 only to rejoin in 1861. Although Sherman preferred to work in a subordinate role, he rallied to become one of the Union's most effective generals. The "Total War" that he brought upon the South helped lead to ultimate victory.

Vice-president Dougherty presented the Hal King Twinkie Award to Wendell Rorie, Robert Sivley, George Engler, Marvin Denison, Dave Cavanah, Robert Harper, John Atkins, and Wayne Goolsby.

Presenters for the September meeting will be Wynn L. Radford and Steve DeMoss.

Respectfully submitted,

Dave Cavanah  
Secretary/Treasurer

MINUTES of the ATHENAEUM SOCIETY  
September 3, 2015

President Dougherty convened the September meeting of the Athenaeum Society at the Hopkinsville Holiday Inn.

Roll was called, and twenty-six members were present. Minutes of the April and May meetings were read and approved. The financial report was made. The balance was \$2560.56.

Excuses for previous absences were given by John Soyars, George Engler, Hollis White, and Matt Frerichs.

The president appointed Robert Cope, George Byars, and John Atkins to the Nominating Committee. He appointed James Adams, III, Duncan Cavanah, and Wendell Lynch to the Membership Committee.

Papers were presented by Wynn L. Radford, a member since 1984 and #9 in seniority and Steve DeMoss, a member since 2013 and #36 in seniority.

In "Would You Have Had the Courage to Join the French Resistance," Wynn tells us that Plato's four cardinal virtues are wisdom, temperance, justice and courage. Our author believes that courage is the most important. He also identifies different kinds of courage. If any one of us were given time for rational thought, perhaps we would not have mustered the courage to join the resistance against the German forces who occupied our country. However, courage as an instinctive act may be possessed by more people. Wynn feels that each of us would have stormed the Normandy Beach. I think voicing that opinion takes enormous courage.

In 1973, Steve DeMoss and his rock band spent five days recording two songs in a recording studio. The music was recorded on a Scully 16-track recorder. Now anyone wishing to record music can do so in a home studio with a computer, digital audio interface, microphones and headphones. In "Is It Live or Is It Memory?" Steve goes all the way back to the start of recorded sound. The Acoustic Era lasted from 1877 to 1925. Sound was captured by a funnel-shaped horn connected to a moving diaphragm. This was followed by the Electrical Era and then in <sup>1922</sup>~~1922~~ the Digital Era, and all of this was followed by Steve's lifelong love of music and cashing royalty checks.

Comments were made by James Coursey, Robert Sivley, John Atkins, Terry Fuqua, and James Adams.

Presenters for the October meeting will be Wendell Rorie and Robert Cope.

Respectfully submitted,

Dave Cavanah, Secretary/Treasurer

MINUTES of the ATHENAEUM SOCIETY  
October 1, 2015

President Dougherty convened the October meeting of the Athenaeum Society at the Hopkinsville Holiday Inn.

Roll was called, and twenty-three members were present. Minutes of the September meeting were read and approved. The financial report was made. The balance was \$3262.91.

Excuses for previous absences were given by Lindsey Adams, Danny Gilkey, Marvin Denison, Robert Harper, and Chris Gilkey.

President Dougherty introduced new member Robert Sivley, Jr.

Wendell Lynch, representing the Membership Committee, nominated a prospective member. He will be voted on in November.

Papers were presented by Wendell H. Rorie, a member since 1960 and #1 in seniority and Robert J. Cope II, a member since 2000 and #15 in seniority.

In "India: Land of Mystery and Magnificence," Wendell Rorie described a trip that he took twenty years ago. He told of peaks and temples and of the awakening of the senses and energizing of the soul. Today India has more than a billion people living in a country one third the size of the United States. Progress and assension onto the world stage remain slow but hopefully steady.

In 1968, Robert cope was being trained as a DASH Repair Officer. A DASH is a Drone Anti-Sub marine Helicopter. In October of 2015 he was reading his paper, "It Didn't Start with Amazon" to us. Amazon plans to deliver packages with the assistance of drones. He also related the history and some of the current uses of drones, told us why the FAA hates drones, and showed us a picture of a pigeon.

Comments were made by Danny Gilkey, Steve DeMoss, Robert Harper, and Hollis White.

Presenters for the November meeting will be James G. Adams, Jr., and Carter Hendricks.

Respectfully submitted,

Dave Cavanah, Secretary/Treasurer

MINUTES of the ATHENAEUM SOCIETY  
November 5, 2015

President Dougherty convened the November meeting of the Athenaeum Society at the Hopkinsville Holiday Inn.

Roll was called, and thirty-two members were present. Minutes of the October meeting were read and approved. The financial report was made. The balance was \$3309.61.

Excuses for previous absences were given by William Turner, Jim Adams, Whitney Westerfield, John Freer, Robert Martin, Carter Hendricks, John Atkins, Jason Powell, Russ Guffey, George Byars, and William Rowlett.

A vote was conducted on a prospective new member. The vote was affirmative.

Papers were presented by James G. Adams, Jr., a member since 1981 and #6 in seniority and Carter Hendricks, a member since 2014 and #37 in seniority.

Many of us have sampled food prepared by Judge Adams, and we would probably all agree that his barbeque tops the list of our favorites. In "The History, Traditions and Techniques of Barbeque," we are given a view of the origin of barbeque, information on types of barbeque prominent in various areas, and a look at Jim's technique perfected through many years. We were not given even a hint as to the content of his secret sauce nor were we offered a sample.

"Sticks and stones will break my bones but words will..." – well, you know the rest and so does Carter Hendricks. However, Carter doesn't necessarily agree. In fact, Carter makes the point that words, especially the "spoken" word have more power to influence and lead to change than other forms of communication. He also champions the value of the spoken word over the influence of art forms such as pictures. He points to three speeches to prove his point. The Gettysburg Address, Martin Luther King's "I Have a Dream", and Jim Valvano's "Don't Give Up" speech all lead to action because they touch our emotions and stir our imagination in a way that nothing else can.

Comments were made by Terry Fuqua, Danny Gilkey, Wendell Lynch, Jason Powell, Russ Guffey, Wynn Radford, John Atkins, Hollis White, James Adams, and John Freer.

Presenters for the December meeting will be Robert Y. Harper and Robert W. Martin.

Respectfully submitted,

Dave Cavanah, Secretary/Treasurer



MINUTES of the ATHENAEUM SOCIETY  
December 3, 2015

President Dougherty convened the December meeting of the Athenaeum Society at the Hopkinsville Holiday Inn.

Roll was called, and twenty-five members were present. Minutes of the November meeting were read and approved. The financial report was made. The balance was \$3023.27.

Excuses for previous absences were given by Lindsey Adams, Edward Higgins, Robert Sivley, Jr., and Robert Harper.

President Dougherty welcomed new member Tim Cato.

Papers were presented by Robert Y. Harper, a member since 2000 and #17 in seniority and Robert W. Martin, a member since 2014 and #38 in seniority.

When Robert Harper greeted the members by saying "Jell-o everyone," he pulled us into a world filled with connective tissue of animals, Jell-o molds, gelatin granules, congealed desserts, and jell-o shots. With the exception of the shots, Robert has made it all and tried it all. His closing prediction for the evening may have been correct – someone may have gone home and tried the Lime Jell-o Marshmallow Cottage Cheese Surprise.

Robert Martin told us that "Garage Sales Are Amazing Things," and he defended that contention quite well. Robert lives in a house built by Judge J.I. Landis. In June 2009, he saw a posting from an attorney who had been given a portrait of the judge in a yard sale in east Tennessee. The attorney donated the painting to our museum, and the museum is currently loaning it to Robert. Robert has also accumulated information on all of the other owners and has pictures of many of them.

Comments were made by James Coursey, Terry Fuqua, Mitchell Kaye, Robert Sivley, Wayne Goolsby, Marvin Denison, and Ken Dougherty.

Presenters for the January meeting will be David Duncan Cavanah and James G. Adams, III.

Respectfully submitted,

Dave Cavanah, Secretary/Treasurer