

MINUTES of the ATHENAEUM SOCIETY

January 7, 2016

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

Roll was called, and thirty-two members were present. Minutes of the December meeting were read and approved. The financial report was made. The balance was \$2737.07

Excuses for previous absences were given by Jim Adams, George Byars, Danny Gilkey, John Soyars, Bill Engler, James Adams, and Chris Gilkey.

Papers were presented by David Duncan Cavanah, a member since 2006 and #23 in seniority and James G. Adams, III, a member since 2009 and #26 in seniority.

Duncan presented "The Flight of John Wilkes Booth" in which he related the escape of President Lincoln's assassin after the hastily planned shooting. Step one was getting out of the nation's capital by horseback. Booth then went to Maryland and later crossed the Potomac into Virginia. Twelve days after killing the President, Booth was found by members of the New York Sixteenth. As the assassin prepared for one final fight, he was shot and killed by Sgt. Boston Corbett.

James told us about waterfowling and (duck and goose hunting.) He described the attraction of the sport in terms of enjoying Mother Nature, or the calm serenity of dawn, or the hunt with your favorite dog, or even time spent with good friends. But what James really likes is the toys. Duck blinds, robo ducks, ice eaters, and swimmer machines are the real draw. The attractions would have to be strong because he also told us about getting up at 2:30 a.m., wading in Lake Barkley on New Year's Day, and long days spent and no ducks shot. If he still wants to spend 60 days a year doing this, there must be something to it.

Comments were made by Ken Dougherty, Rob Harper, Jim Adams, Robert Sivley Jr, Russ Guffey, and Bob Isom.

Presenters for the February meeting will be Marvin D. Denison and Dr. John H. Freer.

Respectfully submitted,

Dave Cavanah, Secretary/Treasurer

MINUTES of the ATHENAEUM SOCIETY
February 4, 2016

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

Roll was called, and twenty-six members were present. Minutes of the January meeting were read and approved. The financial report was made. The balance was \$2745.73.

Excuses for previous absences were given by Wendell Lynch, Whitney Westerfield, John Freer, and James Coursey.

President Dougherty requested input from members on the location for Open Meeting.

Papers were presented by Marvin D. Denison, a member since 1986 and #10 in seniority and Dr. John H. Freer, a member since 1995 and #13 in seniority.

Marvin discussed the presidential election of 1824. There were five viable candidates: John Quincy Adams, Henry Clay, Andrew Jackson, John Calhoun, and Charles Crawford. After the election, Jackson led but no one had the required majority so the decision became the responsibility of the House of Representatives. The Constitution required that only the top three be considered. That left Jackson, Adams, and Crawford. Clay delivered Kentucky's votes to Adams. He also brought Illinois, Missouri, Ohio and Louisiana. These were enough to swing the election to Adams and further cement the hatred that Jackson had for Clay. The animosity only increased when Clay was named Secretary of State. The next four years were full of personal attacks and name-calling and culminated with Jackson's victory in 1828.

John Freer introduced us to Bisbee's Comedians. The paper started with a tense "Come one; come all! Five big nights of drama, comedy, vaudeville, magic, music, dancing, variety acts. Starting Monday, August 1st, at the Fordsville School grounds." Bisbee's Comedians were based in Memphis and started in 1927 by J.S. Bisbee. Mr. Bisbee owned the show until his death in 1955. It was later purchased by Billy Choate. An evening with Bisbee provided comedy, popcorn, candy, prizes, a 30 minute concert, and a play with vaudeville specialties between the acts. After all of this another concert was presented for an additional fee. Bisbee's Comedians closed in 1967 after 40 years of touring in Kentucky and Tennessee.

Comments were made by James Coursey, Whitney Westerfield, William Turner, Robert Sivley, and Terry Fuqua.

Presenters for the March meeting will be Dr. Mitchell D. Kaye and Wayne Goolsby.

Respectfully submitted,

Dave Cavanah, Secretary/Treasurer

NO MINUTES ON FILE
MARCH 2016

MINUTES of the ATHENAEUM SOCIETY

April 7, 2016

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

Roll was called, and twenty-nine members were present. Minutes of the March meeting were read and approved. The financial report was made. The balance was \$2217.54

Excuses for previous absences were given by Jim Adams, Whitney Westerfield, Chris Gilkey, Bob Cope, Wendell Lynch, John Atkins, and Ruff Guffey.

Brett Pritchett received an affirmative vote and became our 40th member.

The Nominating Committee nominated officers for 2016-17. Terry Fuqua will serve as president, Mitchell Kaye as vice-president and Dave Cavanah as secretary/treasurer.

A discussion was held concerning the advisability of establishing an Athenaeum Society website. Terry Fuqua presented a powerpoint to clarify what could be accomplished. Whitney Westerfield added information. A committee was formed to study the situation. Members of the committee are Terry Fuqua, Whitney Westerfield, Mitchell Kaye, and Chris Gilkey. The committee will report back in September.

Papers were presented by Chris Gilkey, a member since 2010 and #30 in seniority and Matt Frerichs, a member since 2013 and #32 in seniority.

Mr. Gilkey examined the effectiveness of Hollywood movies in portraying historical events. Some film sacrifices fact to add sensationalism. ~~There~~^{The} better movies maintain truth but find an alternate method of recounting the past. They depend on simplicity (clear stories and simple characters). In "Hollywood History," Chris acknowledged the conflict between filmmakers and historians. D.W. Griffith claims that movies are more accurate than written history and J.E. Smyth counters by saying that Griffith rewrote the text of American history. A more conciliatory approach might be that film can raise curiosity among audiences and students and that has to be a good thing.

In "Conflict in the South China Sea," Matt depicts aggressive actions undertaken by China to gain control of the area. Control of this vast area would be beneficial to China and naturally detrimental to other countries in the area. Because of threatened shipping lanes and lost oil reserves, the United States also has an interest. Matt concludes his paper by suggesting actions that the U.S. might undertake.

Comments were made by Robert Harper, Mitchell Kaye, Robert Sivley, Whitney Westerfield, Wynn Radfor, and Terry Fuqua.

Presenters for the May meeting will be Edward H. Higgins, III and John Atkins.

Respectfully submitted,

Dave Cavanah, Secretary/Treasurer

Minutes of the Athenaeum Society – May 5, 2016

President Dougherty convened the open meeting of the Athenaeum Society at Oakland Manor. He greeted 74 people and instructed guests that they were invited to comment on papers.

Papers were presented by Edward H. Higgins, III, a member since 1984 and #8 in seniority and John Atkins, a member since 2013 and #33 in seniority.

Edward presented "The 1933 St. Gaudens' Double Eagle, a Saga or a tale of Making Heads or Tails of a \$20 Gold Piece." Double Eagles were \$20 gold coins. They were called Double Eagles not because they featured two eagles (They had only one), but because \$10 gold coins also had one eagle. In 1933, the U.S. produced 445,500 Double Eagles just a few days before Franklin Roosevelt decided we should stop issuing gold coins. The saga starts here – 445,034 coins were sealed in a vault at the Philadelphia Mint; 466 were tested and 29 of those were destroyed; 437 were locked in the safe of Mint cashier George McCann (a former convict who possessed the only two keys to the safe). Finally two of the 437 assigned to McCann were sent to the Smithsonian. All of the coins were then supposedly melted into bullion. However, McCann took nine coins and sold them to Israel Switt. Those nine were then scattered with one ending up in Egypt. By 1947, the Treasury Department knew the location of all nine coins. Then in 1952, a tenth coin surfaced, and the case was once again resolved. Then in 2005, Israel Switt died and ten more Double Eagles were found in his safe. Who gets these ten coins? A decision was made, reversed, and then reversed again. A final decision is expected soon.

John Atkins blew the shroud of secrecy right off the front door of the Athenaeum clubhouse. But I can ^{assure} ~~assume~~ anyone up in a cloud reading this summary that he was just kidding about a lot of that stuff. No member living or dead knows anything about dressing in robes, or chanting, or cauldrons, or any manner of dancing. Also, the story he related about our society begging several women's groups to merge with us is essentially true, and it is also true that they all declined because (here I quote) "Merging our groups would raise your collective IQ and lower ours." However, if you look at the tone of those rejections, I believe that we will resolve the matter within the next 12 to 18 months. Mr. ^{Atkins} ~~Adams~~ concluded on a more serious note. He said he looked forward to each meeting and was honored to be a member of Athenaeum. I think we all concur.

President Dougherty presented the Hal King Twinkie Award to Wendell Rorie, Robert Sivley, Hollis White, Ken Dougherty, Terry Fuqua and Wayne Goolsby.

Presenters for the September meeting will be Wendell A. Lynch and Robert Sivley, Jr.

Respectfully submitted,

Dave Cavanah, Secretary/treasurer

MINUTES of the ATHENAEUM SOCIETY
September 1, 2016

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

Roll was called, and twenty-eight members were present. The financial report was made. The balance was \$3225.72. A brief summary of yearly expenses was given by Treasurer Cavanah.

Excuses for previous absences were given by Wendell Lynch.

President Fuqua named Wendell Lynch, Duncan Cavanah and Robert Sivley, Jr. to the Nominating Committee and James Adams, Jr., Hollis White and Wendell Rorie to the Membership Committee.

A report was made by the Website Committee. Mitchell Kaye reported on the activity of the committee, and President Fuqua and Whitney Westerfield presented options. Ultimately, the society voted to construct a website that would include both papers and minute of meetings, but access would be restricted to Athenaeum members.

Papers were presented by Wendell A. Lynch, a member since 2001 and #18 in seniority and Robert Sivley, Jr., a member since 2015 and #37 in seniority.

Wendell Lynch presented "Our War at Home (Domestic Terrorism in the United States)." Terrorist acts involve violence or threats of violence and are designed to have far-reaching psychological effects. Domestic terrorism is initiated by four basic interests: religious convictions, racial prejudice, political motivation, or special interest. Wendell concluded his paper by describing a day in the life of Alvin Nixon. On April 19, 1995, Mr. Nixon was working in the Oklahoma City Federal Courthouse Annex when the Federal Building was bombed. Mr. Nixon was able to escape safely but lost several friends in what is still the deadliest domestic terrorism incident in the United States. Mr. Nixon is Wendell's brother-in-law.

In "The Biological Passport Program (A Brief History of the Use of Performance Enhancing Drugs in Professional Sports and the Latest Methodology by which to Identify Cheaters)," Robert Sivley, Jr. describes cheating by athletes who used performance enhancing drugs. This use, also known as doping, has been around for centuries and has not always been illegal or even viewed negatively. Athletes of note who have been accused of doping include Lance Armstrong, Ben Johnson, Marion Jones, Andre Agassi, Roger Clemmons, Mark McGuire, and Barry Bonds. A relatively new set of tests known as the Biological Passport Program may more accurately detect doping. This system monitors biological variables over time. Illegal substances trigger these variations so the actual substance does not have to be detected in the athlete's body. No one thinks that this will stop all cheating, but it may be a step in the right direction.

Comments were made by Mitchell Kaye, Robert Ison, Wynn Radford, and Robert Sivley.

Presenters for the October meeting will be Danny Gilkey and Lindsey Adams.

Respectfully submitted,

Dave Cavanah, Secretary/Treasurer

MINUTES of the ATHENAEUM SOCIETY

October 6, 2016

Vice-president Kaye convened the October meeting of the Athenaeum Society at the Hopkinsville Holiday Inn.

Roll was called, and twenty-one members were present. The financial report was made. The balance was \$3545.18.

Excuses for previous absences were given by John Soyars, Chris Gilkey, Brett Pritchett, and Marvin Denison.

Mitchell Kaye reported for the Website Committee. He stated that all available papers have been scanned. It was determined that the webmaster can deal with requests for access to the website on a case by case basis. He can give information to anyone he wants. All honorary members will be given entrance.

Papers were presented by Danny M. Gilkey, a member since 2009 and #27 in seniority and Lindsey Adams, a member since 2012 and #31 in seniority.

In "full Disclosure: Presidents' Health in History," Danny revealed the cover-ups that have sometimes occurred relating to the health of U.S. Presidents. Presidents, staff members, wives, physicians, and White House insiders have conspired to hide serious health conditions suffered by U.S. Presidents as well as candidates for the office. George Washington, Abraham Lincoln, Grover Cleveland, Woodrow Wilson, Warren Harding, Franklin Roosevelt, and John Kennedy are a few of the Presidents whose poor health was hidden from the world.

Lindsey Adams presented "An Uncivil War and How It Changed the Lives of Three Families and History." The three families were the Andersons, the James and the Youngers. The names we all recognize are "Bloody Bill" Anderson, Frank and Jesse James, and Cole and Jim Younger. Lindsey follows the evolution of these families from before the Civil War until the deaths of these notorious men. Their lives were violent, lawless and included stints with Quantrill's Raiders. Each was a regular man who was made savage by his surroundings.

Comments were made by John Atkins, Jim Coursey, Robert Sivley, William Turner, Marvin Denison and Mitchell Kaye.

Presenters for the November meeting will be Robert Sivley and Russ Guffey.

Respectfully submitted,

Dave Cavanah, Secretary/Treasurer

MINUTES of the ATHENAEUM SOCIETY
November 3, 2016

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

Roll was called, and twenty-eight members were present. The financial report was made. The balance was \$3624.77.

Excuses for previous absences were given by Edward Higgins, James Adams, Steve DeMoss, John Freer, James Martin, Tim Cato, Robert Ison, Hollis White, George Engler, and Terry Fuqua.

The Membership Committee (James Adams, Wendell Rorie and Hollis White) nominated a prospective member.

The Website Committee (Terry Fuqua, Mitchell Kaye, Whitney Westerfield and Chris Gilkey) made a report and addressed questions from the floor.

Ken Dougherty asked for a moment of silence for Jim Love. The Chicago Cubs' victory in the World Series would have been very special for our long-time friend and Athenaeum member.

James Coursey announced that the Carnegie Library could host Athenaeum meetings. President Fuqua named a committee to study that possibility. Committee members are James Coursey, Tim Cato, and Wynn Radford.

Papers were presented by Dr. Robert B. Sivley, a member since 1970 and #3 in seniority and Charles Russell Guffey, a member since 2008 and #22 in seniority.

Dr. Sivley presented "The Story of Washoe" in which he reported the study performed by Allen and Beatrix Gardner on the chimpanzee Washoe. The Gardners purchased the chimp with the idea of teaching her sign language. Washoe lived in a small house behind the Gardners' home and never heard a spoken word. Sign language was the only communication she witnessed. Washoe was able to pick up ASL gestures by observing humans around her. After the study was completed, the Gardners moved and away, and Washoe joined the family of Roger Fouts. This arrangement lasted for 35 years until Washoe died at the age of 42. During this period, many more advancements were made. Washoe was even able to teach sign language to an adopted chimpanzee son.

Russ Guffey addressed the question "What makes some things timeless?" in his paper "Timeless, Schmimeless." He quotes Nicholas de Wolff who says that two questions must be answered. First we need to know what makes something retain its social, market or financial value over time. Second, we must identify what makes something retain its emotional and personal value to its owner. If something maintains value over time, it may be classic, and if its design value remains high and unchanged, timeless. But what about something developed in the relatively recent past, say within the last couple of centuries? How can that be timeless? Russ proposes that very few things are truly timeless. Maybe thought or imagination, love, or necessary pleasures such as eating, drinking and sleeping are timeless or perhaps only time is timeless.

Comments were made by Rob Harper, James Martin, Brett Pritchett, Hollis White, and James Adams.

Presenters for the December meeting will be William T. Turner and Hollis N. White, III.

Respectfully submitted, Dave Cavanah, Secretary/Treasurer

MINUTES of the ATHENAEUM SOCIETY
December 1, 2016

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

Roll was called, and thirty-one members were present. The financial report was made. The balance was \$3304.23.

Excuses for previous absences were given by Jim Adams, Bob cope, Whitney Westerfield, and Jason Powell.

A prospective new member was voted on. The vote was affirmative.

Frank Nash sent word that he intended to resign from the society. He was given status of Honorary Member.

Danny Gilkey presented a letter of resignation.

The Membership Committee presented the names of two prospective members. They will be voted on in January.

Papers were presented by William T. Turner, a member since 1964 and #2 in seniority and Hollis N. White, III, a member since 1999 and #13 in seniority.

The loss of a historic building in Hopkinsville influenced William Turner to write "An Unusual Man for His Time - ¹⁸⁵⁸The Life of Peter Postell." Mr. Postell, an African-American, was born somewhere in the Carolinas in 1841. In 1858, he was brought to Christian County as a slave and later ran away and fought in the Civil War. After the war, he returned to Hopkinsville and went into the grocery business. That remained the bedrock for what would become a thriving enterprise. Peter died in 1901. During his life, he ran businesses, accumulated wealth, loved and cared for a large family and left us the Postell building.

Aaron Burr, Jr., and Alexander Hamilton didn't like each other very much. They were political rivals. Burr was a member of the Democratic-Republican Party. Hamilton was a Federalist. When Burr and Thomas Jefferson tied in their bid for the Presidency, Hamilton pushed Jefferson to the win. Hollis White described these and other conflicts in "Alexander Hamilton's Feud and Duel with Aaron Burr, Jr." The multiple conflicts led to the July 11, 1804 duel in which Hamilton was killed. Life turned bad for Burr after that. His political career was done; he was charged with murder, and he never had a musical named after him.

Comments were made by Edward Higgins, James Coursey, Robert Ison, Jim Adams, John Freer, Danny Gilkey, Whitney Westerfield, Jason Powell, Wynn Radford, and Robert Martin.

Presenters for the January meeting will be Dr. William M. Rowlett and Dr. H. Kendrick Dougherty.

Respectfully submitted,

Dave Cavanah, Secretary/Treasurer