

MINUTES of the ATHENAEUM SOCIETY

January 4, 2018

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

Roll was called, and 30 members were present. The financial report was made. The balance was \$2979.10

Excuses for previous absences were given by Ken Dougherty, Cody Noffsinger, John Soyars, and Wayne Goolsby.

President Kaye announced the resignation of Wendell Rorie. The members voted to offer him the status of an honorary member.

The Membership Committee nominated one new member.

Papers were presented Edward H. Higgins, III, a member since 1984 and #6 in seniority and Chris Gilkey, a member since 2010 and #25 in seniority.

Edward Higgins told us about the "369th Infantry Regiment (The Harlem Hellfighters)." The regiment, which was formed from the 15th national Guard Regiment of New York, consisted primarily of African American soldiers. The unit gained fame because of the valor it displayed during both world wars. The members faced not only the enemy but also the discrimination of white American soldiers and the slights of leaders. The dedication of these men as fighters is exemplified by the facts that they never lost a man through capture, lost a trench or a foot of ground to the enemy.

Chris Gilkey asked and answered the question "What's in a Name?" He not only explained the origin of his name but that of Hopkinsville (Hoptown). Then he told us how the other locations across Kentucky received their designations. Who knew there were plausible explanations of locales such as Monkey's Eyebrow, Wax, Nobob, Jugornot, or Mousie?

Comments were made by James Coursey, Marvin Denison, Robert Martin, Wynn Radford, Jason Powell, Wayne Goolsby, Brett Pritchett, William Turner, and Mitchell Kaye.

Presenters for the February meeting will be John Atkins and Brett Pritchett.

Respectfully submitted,

Dave Cavanah, Secretary/Treasurer

MINUTES of the ATHENAEUM SOCIETY
February 1, 2018

Vice-president Russ Guffey convened the February meeting of the Athenaeum Society at the Holiday Inn.

Roll was called, and 27 members were present. The financial report was made. The balance was \$2717.50

Excuses for previous absences were given by Jim Adams and Bill Engler.

The vote for a prospective new member nominated last month was positive.

The Membership Committee nominated two new members.

Papers were presented by John Atkins, a member since 2013 and #28 in seniority and Brett Pritchett, a member since 2016 and #33 in seniority.

John Atkins told us about an unusual election in Kentucky's First District where the incumbent was surprisingly defeated by a relatively unknown challenger. In "Gregory vs. Stubblefield, 1958," John detailed the defeat of Representative Noble Gregory by Frank Stubblefield. Of course, the fact that Gregory was defeated in the Democratic primary and not in the general election makes the result even more unusual. Gregory was elected to the House initially in 1936 and by 1958 was vice-chairman of Ways and Means. He could also point to creation of Kentucky and Barkley Dams when he spoke to the voters. But speaking to the voters was something he neglected to do. The primary campaign was put on autocruise early. The Gregory camp was confident of victory. Problems came from two sources – the support of Governor "Happy" Chandler and the opposition of Emerson "Doc" Beauchamp of Logan County. Stubblefield campaigned hard, spent more money, and won by 432 votes. He had to withstand an investigation of the voting in Logan County and three recounts, but was ultimately declared the winner.

Brett Pritchett shared some family history with us. He related the adventures of his great-grandfather Markie Bone. Markie was born during or slightly after the 1890s on Dukes Ridge in northern Christian County. His family's main business was farming, but they also ran a lucrative moonshining enterprise. Markie had numerous confrontations with members of a neighboring family. Allegedly the sons of John Duke whipped him with switches. In August of 1937, Markie set out to get revenge. He shot and killed John Duke from behind a tree and shot his wife Belle in the arm. Belle lost her arm, and Markie spent time in the state penitentiary. Later Markie was shot seven times by John's grandson "Woody" Duke but survived that attack. Markie was finally killed by his cousin Ethel Wells when in a drunken stupor he confused Ethel with the ghost of John Duke and a shootout ensued. Belle is buried at Riverside Cemetery and Markie at Johnson Chapel Cemetery, and Brett is left to revel in the telling of a great family story.

Comments were made by Wynn Radford, William Turner, Marvin Denison, James Coursey, Jim Adams, and Cody Noffsinger.

Presenters for the March meeting will be Lindsey Adams and Daniel Stahl.

Respectfully submitted,

Dave Cavanah, Secretary/Treasurer

MINUTES of the ATHENAEUM SOCIETY
March 1, 2018

Secretary Dave Cavanah convened the March meeting of the Athenaeum Society at the Holiday Inn.

Roll was called, and 26 members were present. The financial report was made. The balance was \$2454.06.

Excuses for previous absences were given by William Rowlett, Robert Harper, Robert Ison, Jason Powell, and Mitchell Kaye.

It was announced that a prospective member had declined membership. Two prospective members were voted on. Both votes were positive.

Papers were presented by Lindsey Adams, a member since 2012 and #26 in seniority and Daniel Stahl, a member since 2017 and #34 in seniority.

Lindsey sparred with the Instant Gratification Monkey for a couple of months, but with the help of The Panic Monster, he was able to finish his paper just in time. In "Procrastination or I Will Get to This Paper Later," we view the author's typical busy day, watch as he battles to replace the fun stuff with the mundane, responsible stuff, and then celebrate with him as against all odds, he starts and finishes his paper. His ultimate process was unique to him. He does have multiple to-do list apps on his phone; he has recognized that procrastination is an area of weakness, and he noted that Victor Hugo met deadlines of his publisher by writing while naked. At this time, it is unclear which of these methods was utilized in the production of this paper.

Daniel presented "Something About Mary – Rehabilitating Mrs. A. Lincoln." The paper gives us an extraordinary view of Mary Todd, the wife of our 16th President. Mary was born in Lexington, Kentucky, into a wealthy family. This allowed her privilege and even an extensive education, but her life would be filled with sadness that few have ever known. During the course of her life, she lost not only her husband, but three sons, and she felt betrayed by a fourth. She was disliked by most of her siblings, and our nation considered her spoiled at best and possibly also insane. Years have added perspective to our viewing of Mrs. Lincoln. She was absolutely integral in the development of Abraham. Daniel describes her as his political consultant, sounding board, and chief strategist. If that is true, we owe her our undying gratitude.

Comments were made by Robert Sivley, James Coursey, Chris Gilkey, Jason Powell, Taylor Hayes, Wayne Goolsby, John Atkins, Robert Harper, Terry Fuqua, and Mitchell Kaye.

Presenters for the April meeting will be Wynn Radford and Cody Noffsinger.

Respectfully submitted,

Dave Cavanah, Secretary/Treasurer

MINUTES of the ATHENAEUM SOCIETY

April 5, 2018

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

President Kaye greeted Honorary Members Richard Brasher and Wendell Rorie.

Roll was called, and 30 members were present. The financial report was made. The balance was \$2283.34.

Excuses for previous absences were given by Edward Higgins, Whitney Westerfield, Marvin Denison and Wynn Radford.

Scott Barlow accepted our invitation to become a member. A second prospective member voted on in March still has not responded.

Daniel Stahl, representing the Membership Committee, nominated another prospective member. He will be voted on in September.

Hollis White, representing the Nominating Committee, named a slate of officers for next year. Named by the committee were: President – Russ Guffey; Vice-President – Duncan Cavanah; Secretary/Treasurer – Dave Cavanah. The slate was accepted.

The society voted to hold our meetings next year at the Carnegie Library on Liberty Street. James Coursey offered the site with no charge (although there would be a small clean-up fee). We will hire an outside vendor to provide food.

Papers were presented by Wynn Radford, a member since 1984 and #7 in seniority and Cody Noffsinger, a member since 2017 and #35 in seniority.

In “The History Beneath Our Feet,” Wynn describes a new interest of his. That interest in archeology and anthropology has led to visits to Indian Mounds in Kentucky, Missouri, Illinois, Louisiana, Alabama, Tennessee, and Florida. It has also led to intensive studies of the Shawnee, Cherokee, Choctaw and Chickasaw tribes that once lived in Christian County. Wynn visited the largest Indian Mound in North America which is 100 feet high, 105 feet long, and 48 feet wide. Wynn believes that the high grade chert found along Little River may have been traded to tribes outside our area. The activity probably represents some of the earliest commerce and most advanced commerce in the region that would become Christian County.

In “Blue Hill, Stone Barnes, and Barber’s Third Plate,” Cody presents Dan Barber whose work at his Blue Hill Restaurant in Greenwich Village has made him the leader in today’s farm-to-table movement. That system uses resources efficiently, promotes a healthy diet, and is sustainable. But Barber, ever the trendsetter, soon developed a new program that he called the Third Plate. To help with this movement, Barber opened a second restaurant at Stone Barnes Center for Food and Agriculture. The center produces food and raises livestock. The livestock refortify the soil, eliminating the need for dangerous chemicals. The Third Plate philosophy means eating more of what our environment provides

(less high-on-the-hog and more nose-to-tail). But don't be discouraged. Third Plate also encourages satisfying taste.

Comments were made by James Coursey, Daniel Stahl, Russ Guffey, Taylor Hayes, and Ken Dougherty.

Presenters for the May meeting will be Duncan Cavanah and Wayne Goolsby.

Respectfully submitted,

Dave Cavanah, Secretary/Treasurer

MINUTES of the ATHENAEUM SOCIETY

May 3, 2018

President Kaye convened the open meeting of the Athenaeum Society at Oakland Manor on May 3, 2018. He explained the activities for the evening to ___ members and guests. He noted the passing of Hal King, a member from 1987 to 2013. Hal was also one of our honorary members.

Papers were presented by Duncan Cavanah, a member since 2006 and #20 in seniority and Wayne Goolsby, a member since 2013 and #29 in seniority.

In "Mr. Social Security: The Conn Man Chronicles," Duncan depicts the life and times of Pike County attorney Eric Christopher Conn. Conn gave us some indication of just where his legal career was headed when he branded himself "Mr. Social Security. During the following years, advertising attempts included low-cut T-shirt clad girls called "Conn's hotties," neon yellow and green billboards, monkeys portraying Social Security employees, rap videos, and commercials designed to be seen by anyone watching TV and wearing 3-D glasses. Conn was soon living in a 10,000 square foot home, owned a fleet of luxury cars, and traveled the world in private planes. With this lifestyle and sound business model, no one would have predicted cloudy days ahead. But in 2002, he was forced to resign from a court where he frequently appeared. In 2011, charges were made that Conn had paid a judge for favorable rulings. A federal indictment was followed by jail time, release, more indictments, cutting off an ankle monitory and heading for the border. He was arrested again in Honduras and currently resides in the Grayson County Detention Center.

Wayne Goolsby want to know what's on your summer reading list. If it's not full, he has suggestions. In "Three Vixens of Fifties Fiction," he acclaims the works of three female authors from that decade. Patricia Highsmith's work views the dark side of life. Her 1950 novel Strangers on a Train involves two men who agree to kill someone of the other's choosing. In 1955, Highsmith introduced Tom Ripley who appears in five novels and doesn't mind killing a person or two if it fits his purposes. The second vixen is Shirley Jackson. She is best known for her short story "The Lottery" which opens with the mundane but spirals through the unexpected, the macabre, and the incomprehensible. Her two most famous novels are The Haunting of Hill House and We Have Always Lived in the Castle. They are described as "works of unnerving terror" and quintessential psychological thrillers. Our third bad girl author is Grace Metalious. If you are going to be known primarily for authoring one novel, Peyton Place would be a good choice. Within its pages, Metalious rips the cover off a fictitious New England town, exposing hypocrisy, degeneration, lust and abuse. Wayne heartily endorses anything written by these three ladies, but also quotes another lady of literature, Frances Thomas, who said, "There are no bad books."

President Kaye presented the Hal King Twinkie Award to Robert Sivley, Dave Cavanah, John Atkins, and Brett Pritchett.

Presenters for the September meeting will be Jason Powell and John Soyars.

Respectfully submitted,

Dave Cavanah, Secretary/Treasurer

MINUTES of the ATHENAEUM SOCIETY

September 6, 2018

President Guffey convened the ~~open~~^{Sept} meeting of the Athenaeum Society at the Carnegie Library.

Roll was called, and 25 members were present. The financial report was made, and the balance was \$1450.30.

Excuses for previous absences were given by Jason Powell, James Coursey, and Wendell Lynch.

James Coursey welcomed us to the Carnegie Library.

President Guffey announced the resignations of Ken Dougherty, Robert Sivley, Jr., and William Rowlett. The society voted to offer Dr. Rowlett the status of Honorary Member.

Terry Fuqua spoke about our website and requested the help of a member who could eventually replace Terry. He also suggested that the society obtain a credit card that could be used to pay website fees. That suggestion was tabled.

President Guffey named Chris Gilkey, Jason Powell, and Happy Higgins to the Nominating Committee and Brett Pritchett, Wayne Goolsby, and Bob Cope to the Membership Committee.

The Membership Committee nominated two prospective members, and they were voted on. The votes for both were affirmative.

Papers were presented by Jason B. Powell, a member since 2007 and #19 in seniority, and John T. Soyars, a member since 2010 and #22 in seniority.

Jason Powell is a salesman and has been all of his life. In "Always be Closing," he contrasts the salesperson that we may be thinking of (the pushy, dishonest, annoying one) with the more modern professional. Today the salesperson is taught to tune into the needs and even the emotions of the prospect. The salesman also learns to deal with his own emotions, realizing that you can't take things too personally in this profession. Also, the salesperson must have knowledge of the prospect's situation. Rather than simply answering their questions, you must create questions and situations that the prospect may not have even considered. So be relevant, serve, help, and understand. Fortunately, I have run into a few salespeople like that.

In 1815, Napoleon met his Waterloo. John Soyars did not take us quite that far, but in "Encounter at the Crossroads: Quatre Bras and Ligny," he gave us detailed information about the days prior to that crucial battle. On June 15th, Napoleon crossed into Belgium with 120,000 men. His intention was to defeat the Duke of Wellington and his army of 100,000 and the Prussians under General Blucher and his army of 117,000. The plan was to take on the two armies one at a time. The first encounter was with the Prussians at the village of Ligny, but to keep Wellington from joining the battle, it was critical that Quatre Bras be controlled at the same time. The Prussians were defeated at Ligny, but not as decisively as Napoleon wished because he was never able to capture Quatre Bras. This portion of the battle was completed, but the climax was still ahead. More from John in two years...

Comments were made by Robert Sivley, Brett Pritchett, Wendell Lynch, John Atkins, and Russ Guffey.

Presenters for the October meeting will be Robert Sivley and Wendell Lynch.

Respectfully submitted,

Dave Cavanah, Secretary/Treasurer

MINUTES of the ATHENAEUM SOCIETY
October 4, 2018

President Guffey convened the October meeting of the Athenaeum Society at the Carnegie Library.

Roll was called, and 27 members were present. The financial report was made, and the balance was \$2676.98.

Excuses for previous absences were given by Daniel Stahl, Mitchell Kaye, and Wynn Radford.

The Membership Committee nominated three prospective members, and they will be voted on in November.

Papers were presented by Dr. Robert B. Sivley, a member since 1970 and #2 in seniority, and Wendell A. Lynch, a member since 2001 and #14 in seniority.

In his paper "Multiple Personality Disorder," Dr. Sivley described the criteria for the diagnosis of the condition as the presence of two or more distinct identities or personality states. There must also be an inability to recall important personal information. Our familiarity with the subject probably came from popular books and movies which detailed the study of specific patients. Opinions as to the accuracy of these diagnoses is mixed. Those who dismiss the legitimacy of these claims point out that patients may want to find a defense for criminal activity or simply seek attention.

The Nineteenth Amendment (the Women's Suffrage Amendment) was proposed by Congress in June, 1919. In "The Struggle Ain't Over Yet," Wendell Lynch tells of the young Tennessee State congressman whose affirmative vote made the amendment law. But the story started long before that. In 1851, Elizabeth Cady Stanton met Susan B. Anthony, and for more than fifty years these two giants of the Women's Movement worked to make women's suffrage a reality. Although neither lady lived long enough to cast a ballot, both knew progress had been made. Before either died, four states had granted women the right to vote, and colleges and professional schools were opening up for women. Both died knowing that the movement must and would go on.

Comments were made by James Coursey, Daniel Stahl, John Atkins, Terry Fuqua, Bob Ison, Wynn Radford, Cody Noffsinger, and Mitchell Kaye.

Presenters for the November meeting will be William T. Turner and Timothy J. Cato.

Respectfully submitted,

Dave Cavanah, Secretary/Treasurer

MINUTES of the ATHENAEUM SOCIETY
November 1, 2018

Vice-president Cavanah convened the November meeting of the Athenaeum Society at the Carnegie Library.

Roll was called, and 30 members were present. The financial report was made, and the balance was \$3045.18.

Excuses for previous absences were given by Lindsey Adams, Robert Martin, Jim Adams, Jason Powell, and Tim Cato.

Three prospective members were voted on, and the votes on all three were affirmative.

Papers were presented by William T. Turner, a member since 1964 and #1 in seniority, and Timothy J. Cato, a member since 2015 and #29 in seniority.

William Turner described a shootout north of Hopkinsville involving Billy Ray Taylor and the Sutton boys. The opposition that night was a flying saucer full of little silver men. Later accounts of the incident changed the color of the assaulters to green. Whatever the color, the fact remains that something happened in Kelly, Kentucky, on August 21, 1955. The event gained the attention not only of the Christian County Sheriff, Hopkinsville Police Department, and the Kentucky State Police, but the national media as well. So for the skeptics among you, there is the proof of authenticity.

Wash it off, soak for at least five days, ~~and~~ add two liters of Coke, and cook on the stove in a lard can. This is a brief look at the recipe given to us by Tim Cato for cooking country hams. But "Hog Killing" is about a lot more than cooking ham. The annual event was one that combined the shared efforts of multiple farm families. The byproducts of this work were surely enough meat to last for the next year, but also a sense of pride and accomplishment as friends and family worked together for the common goal.

Comments were made by Lindsey Adams, James Coursey, Brett Pritchett, Jim Adams, Taylor Hayes, Jason Powell, Daniel Stahl, John Atkins, Robert Harper, Robert Martin, Marvin Denison, and Cody Noffsinger.

Presenters for the December meeting will be George H. Byars and Robert E. Ison.

Respectfully submitted,

Dave Cavanah, Secretary/Treasurer

MINUTES of the ATHENAEUM SOCIETY
December 6, 2018

President Guffey convened the December meeting of the Athenaeum Society at the Carnegie Library.

Roll was called, and 30 members were present. The financial report was made, and the balance was \$2854.90.

Excuses for previous absences were given by Robert Ison, Russ Guffey, and George Byars.

President Guffey welcomed new members: William Myers, Jr., and John M. Bruce. A third prospective member declined membership.

Papers were presented by George H. Byars, a member since 1987 and #9 in seniority, and Robert E. Ison, a member since 2000 and #12 in seniority.

Not many men who have only a third grade education are responsible for developing a business that becomes a billion dollar enterprise. That is exactly what Luther Turner did. The story was related to us in George Byars' paper "The Mighty Dollar." Turner's general store grew into the Dollar General Store empire. Decades later when Luther's grandson retired from his leadership position, Dollar General had grown to 6000 stores, and annual sales were 6 billion dollars.

The Massachusetts Institute of Technology is a wonderful, very exclusive school of engineering. Brilliant students have enrolled there for years to follow course work that is challenging but also rigid. As Robert Ison explained to us in "MIT Media Lab," the course work is not rigid anymore. In 1985, the MIT Media Lab was opened and became the center for new ideas, study, research, and creative invention. Students and faculty are encouraged to study and interact with researchers from other fields. The idea is to unleash creativity. Among many other projects, Media Lab is currently working to promote better health, build better communities, address serious physical and mental impairments, and end world hunger. Not bad for a bunch of misfits.

Comments were made by Russ Guffey, Jim Coursey, Taylor Hayes, Daniel Stahl, John Atkins, Jason Powell, Edward Higgins, Cory Pitts, and Hollis White.

Presenters for the January meeting will be James Coursey and Whitney Westerfield.

Respectfully submitted,

Dave Cavanah, Secretary/Treasurer