

MINUTES of the ATHENAEUM SOCIETY
January 3, 2019

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

Roll was called, and 29 members were present. The financial report was made, and the balance was \$2665.08. Minutes were read and approved.

The Society voted on two prospective members. Both votes were affirmative.

Papers were presented by James B. Coursey, a member since 2009 and #20 in seniority, and Whitney H. Westerfield, a member since 2010 and #21 in seniority.

James Coursey presented "Flying Out of the Depression – The Pan Am Clippers." The paper deals with early flight with emphasis on Juan Trippe and his Flying Clippers which became quite popular from the late 1920s to the early 1940s. The term "Clipper" was used by Trippe because his family had made money from Clipper sailing ships in the nineteenth century. Trippe used his Flying Clippers to carry mail and passengers across the country as well as to Cuba. Eventually, Trippe and his new company used his Clippers in routes that crossed both the Atlantic and the Pacific, but as newer, more powerful planes were developed, the Clippers were replaced and moved from the forefront into a very prominent place in the history of aviation.

In "Adoption Chronicles," Whitney Westerfield not only gives us information about adoption from a historical perspective, but also shares his own insights. Whitney and Amanda ^{are} re-adoptive parents, so it is easy to understand his interest. The first law passed by the United States involving adoption was the Adoption of Children Act of 1851. With that act Massachusetts defined adoption as a social and legal operation based on child welfare. Whitney also explained "baby farming." That is the practice of selling children for profit and is still common today. We also learned about the Orphan Train, race matching, the Indian Child Welfare Act and embryo adoption. Each of these may be considered a step. Some steps are well-meaning, but may not always be in the right direction. The legal system and medical science will always impact and undoubtedly change the system as it exists. That's all right. There is nothing inherently wrong with change. Let us though applaud things as they are right now. The current system got it right when it made of family of Hayes and Amanda and Whitney.

Comments were made by William Turner, Robert Harper, Daniel Stahl, Russ Guffey, Taylor Hayes, Bob Cope, Wynn Radford and John Bruce.

Presenters for the February meeting will be Mitchell D. Kaye and Paul E. Fourshee.

Respectfully submitted,

Dave Cavanah, Secretary/Treasurer

MINUTES of the ATHENAEUM SOCIETY

February 7, 2019

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

Roll was called, and 26 members were present. The financial report was made, and the balance was \$2322.75. Minutes were read and approved.

The Membership Committee nominated a potential member. He will be voted on in March.

Papers were presented by Mitchell D. Kaye, a member since 2004 and #16 in seniority, and Paul E. Fourshee, a member since 2017 and #33 in seniority.

Chuck Berry was a felon, a businessman, and a bit of a psychopath, but it is his talent and unique style that sent him to the moon. More precisely, a recording of his song "Johnny B. Goode" is being sent to interstellar space aboard Voyager I. Mitch tells us that 57 other musical selections will also be included. In "Interplanetary Blues," he not only provided facts about Berry but also treated us to his own rendition of Berry's music. Long live Rock and Roll!

Was Miss Jane insane? She didn't trust men. Was that because of the way her brothers treated her? There are still many unanswered questions. The facts we do know, as related to us by Paul Fourshee, in "Miss Jane Miller" are these: Miss Jane was born in 1788 and died in 1858 in Trigg County. Her will provided freedom for 25 slaves and also provided the opportunity for them to relocate in Liberia. Some of her brothers contested the will, contending that their sister was insane. After multiple trials and an appeal to the Kentucky Court of Appeals, Miss Jane was ruled sane and her will was upheld. By this time, the Civil War was over, and the slaves had been free, so the decision was moot.

Comments were made by James Coursey, Edward Higgins, and Marvin Denison.

Presenters for the March meeting will be Taylor Hayes and Cory Pitts.

Respectfully submitted,

Dave Cavanah, Secretary/Treasurer

MINUTES of the ATHENAEUM SOCIETY

March 7, 2019

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

Roll was called, and 28 members were present. The financial report was made, and the balance was \$2092.47. Minutes were read and approved.

Excuses for previous absences were given by Russ Guffey, Dave Cavanah, Dr. Veer, Robert Ison, Cory Pitts, Chris Gilkey, Robert Harper, and Nick Burnette.

A potential member was voted on. The vote was affirmative.

Papers were presented by Taylor Hayes, a member since 2017 and #34 in seniority, and Cory Pitts, a member since 2018 and #35 in seniority.

Taylor presented "Insights into the Evolution of 'Crisis Communications' in a Social Media Age." As a publisher, Taylor has witnessed the advent and growth of social media and observed its dissemination of news during a crisis (a crisis being defined as an "unpredictable event"). There are definite positive contributions. Facts are spread quickly. Individuals may become a valuable source. Readers, listeners, or those who observe video may be moved to help those who have been hurt. The social media narrative also has negative aspects. Some reports are premature and/or inaccurate and may be used to incite public opinion. They may also be distorted and create polarization. Good or bad, right or wrong, social media is not going away. So never lie, and always assume your next comment is going viral.

Cory Pitts knows "The Point of a Good Pen." He also knows the history. The fountain pen was invented by Lewis Waterman who was frustrated by spilled ink. Cory knows the anatomy right from the cap to the barrel all the way to the nib. As to the point of the fountain pen, there are several. A good pen and a little effort can improve your penmanship. Improved penmanship can improve historical, intellectual and creative literacy. Powerful and lasting communication is another point. A handwritten note or letter is likely to make a point more effectively, be appreciated more completely, and perhaps even be reread for a couple of decades.

Comments were made by Russ Guffey, Lindsey Adams, James Coursey, Brett Pritchett, Robert Ison, Wynn Radford, George Byars, Marvin Denison, John Bruce, Wendell Lynch, Daniel Stahl, and Robert Martin.

Presenters for the April meeting will be Lindsey Adams and Dr. Chirravuri.

Respectfully submitted,

Dave Cavanah, Secretary/Treasurer

MINUTES of the ATHENAEUM SOCIETY
April 4, 2019

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

President Guffey welcomed our new member, Tom Glover.

Roll was called, and 28 members were present. The financial report was made, and the balance was \$1969.95. Minutes were read and approved.

Excuses for previous absences were given by Jim Adams, Whitney Westerfield, Happy Higgins, Bill Engler, and Robert Sivley.

Happy Higgins, representing the Nominating committee, nominated the slate of officers for next year. The officers are Duncan Cavanah (president), Jason Powell (vice-president), and Dave Cavanah (secretary/treasurer). The slate was accepted.

Papers were presented by Lindsey Adams, a member since 2012 and #24 in seniority, and Veerabhadra Chirravuri, a member since 2018 and #36 in seniority.

Lindsey Adams told the story of John "Chick" Donohue and his pilgrimage to Vietnam to deliver a beer to four friends who were serving our country there. In "The Greatest Beer Run Ever," we are told that "Chick," who is a Marine Corp veteran, was fed up with the way our soldiers were being treated by our own country. When the bartender in a bar in Inwood, New York, said, "Someone should go over to 'Nam, track down our boys from the neighborhood, and bring them each a beer, "Chick" knew he would be that someone. "Chick" depended on his own ingenuity, luck and the fact that some think he is with the CIA to get rides on jeeps, planes, and choppers. Chickie ultimately returned home safely, having delivered the boys respect, pride, love and multiple beers – the one beer was never a firm limitation.

Dr. Chirravuri presented "Choice and Decisions." He defines choice as the act of choosing from a variety of options. A decision is a conclusion or resolution reached after consideration. Dr. Veer points out that he makes many decisions during a workday which affect the health of his patients. But long before getting to that point, there were grave decisions to be made which were life changers for him and his family. He started medical school in 1972 in India. When he was ready to practice, times were turbulent there. It was time to make a decision more difficult than any of us is likely to face. After careful consideration, he left his home and moved to the United States. I hope Dr. Veer is happy with that choice. I know we are.

Comments were made by Wayne Goolsby, Bob Ison, Robert Harper, Bill Engler, John Atkins, and Hollis White.

Presenters for the May meeting will be Bill Engler and Hollis White.

Respectfully submitted,

Dave Cavanah, Secretary/Treasurer

MINUTES of the ATHENAEUM SOCIETY

April 4, 2019

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

President Guffey welcomed our new member, Tom Glover.

Roll was called, and 28 members were present. The financial report was made, and the balance was \$1969.95. Minutes were read and approved.

Excuses for previous absences were given by Jim Adams, Whitney Westerfield, Happy Higgins, Bill Engler, and Robert Sivley.

Happy Higgins, representing the Nominating committee, nominated the slate of officers for next year. The officers are Duncan Cavanah (president), Jason Powell (vice-president), and Dave Cavanah (secretary/treasurer). The slate was accepted.

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Comments were made by Wayne Goolsby, Bob Ison, Robert Harper, Bill Engler, John Atkins, and Hollis White.

Presenters for the May meeting will be Bill Engler and Hollis White.

Respectfully submitted,

Dave Cavanah, Secretary/Treasurer

Minutes of the Athenaeum Society May 2, 2019

President Guffey welcomed 84 members and guests to the Open Meeting of the Athenaeum Society. Once again, Oakland Manor was chosen to host this annual event.

Papers were presented by Bill Engler, a member since 1983 and #4 in seniority, and Hollis White, a member since 1999 and #10 in seniority.

Bill Engler's "A Funeral and a Wedding" tells the story of J.J.B. Hilliard-W.L. Lyons LLC and the company's 165 years in the brokerage business. The start was in 1854 in Louisville. From that point mergers, acquisitions, deaths, war, depression, and the onset of the computer age all took part in shaping the company. Hilliard & Lyons has been owned at various times by individuals, families, banks, stockholders, and Houchens Industries. This time another merger has reshaped the company. In 2018, Hilliard & Lyons was purchased by R.W. Baird. Bill called it a funeral, and looking from inside, it must feel like one.

Hollis tried to improve our communication skills. He took tips from Alan Alda's book If I Understood What You Were Saying, Would I Look This Way? Alda explains that communication skills can be enhanced by refining the way we relate to others, show empathy and use emotion. There are even theater exercises that can help. For instance, try "Verbal Sync." Sit across from and facing another person. One person starts talking about anything, and the other tries to say the same thing at the same time. This helps you relate to and read the other person. Another exercise is to "guess the relationship." Here the first person is told the relationship between him and a second person, but the second person does not have that information. The first person's job is to convey that relationship not through what ~~it~~ ^{he} said, but by how he relates to the second person. With this exercise, one person learns to communicate without words, and the other learns to read behavior. So Alda, communicating through Hollis, says to make an effort to be in sync with someone. We can do it if we try.

President Guffey presented the Hal King Twinkie Award to William Turner, Marvin Denison, Robert Cope, Wendell Lynch, James Coursey, John Atkins, Brett Pritchett, Paul Fourshee, and Taylor Hayes.

Presenters for the September meeting will be Robert Y. Harper and Cody Noffsinger.

Respectfully submitted,

Dave Cavanah

MINUTES of the ATHENAEUM SOCIETY
September 5, 2019

President Cavanah convened the September meeting of the Athenaeum Society at the Carnegie Library.

Roll was called, and 32 members were present. The financial report was made, and the balance was \$1688.76. Minutes were read and approved.

Secretary/Treasurer Cavanah presented a yearly summary which included last year's bank balance and major expenses.

Excuses for previous absences were given by Tom Glover, John Bruce, Robert Sivley, Cory Pitts, and Nick Burnette.

Terry Fuqua announced that a few old Athenaeum papers had recently been found at the public library and also requested help from someone who was interested in working on the website.

Taylor Hayes is heading up our community vision plan and requested input from Athenaeum members.

President Cavanah placed Dr. Veer, Hollis White, and John Atkins on the Nominating Committee. John Bruce, Cody Noffsinger, and Taylor Hayes were named to the Membership Committee.

Papers were presented by Robert Y. Harper, a member since 2000 and #13 in seniority, and Cody Noffsinger, a member since 2017 and #32 in seniority.

Robert recently visited "Ethiopia" on behalf of the American corn milling industry. This group provides cornmeal for refugee camps. In his paper, which was accompanied by a video presentation, Robert described some of what he saw in this land-locked nation. Located in northeastern Africa near the equator, the heat is neutralized by the 6000-10,000 foot elevation in most of the country. The poverty level of the almost 100 million people is extreme. With an annual per capita income of \$853, it is easy to see how dependent the people must be on help from around the world. Robert was hosted by Catholic Relief Services which is a sub-contractor with the World Food Program. Catholic Relief was also involved in water projects, a donkey cooperative, and reforestation. Good works and a glimpse of Africa – sounds like a worthwhile trip.

Cody tells the tale of "The Singing Mailman, Mr. Peabody, and Kentucky's Lost Paradise." The Singing Mailman is the legendary American folk artist John Prine, and this is really his story. In the early 70s, Prine included the song "Paradise" in his debut album. Paradise was a small town that suffered from the ravages of strip mining. Peabody Coal Company was the primary ravager, and Prine placed the blame for the ultimate demise of the village on Mr. Peabody. The chorus tells the sad story: "And Daddy won't you take me back to Muhlenberg County/Down by the Green River where Paradise lay/Well, I'm sorry my son, but you're too late in asking/Mister Peabody's coal train has hauled it away." Today there is no Paradise in Muhlenberg County, and only the music is left as Prine closes: "When I die let my ashes float down the Green River/Let my soul roll on up to the Rochester dam/I'll be halfway to Heaven with Paradise waitin'/Just five miles away from wherever I am."

Comments were made by Terry Fuqua, Brett Pritchett, John Atkins, Cory Pitts, Marvin Denison and Wendell Lynch.

Presenters for the October meeting will be Edward H. Higgins, III and Daniel Stahl.

Respectfully submitted,

Dave Cavanah, Secretary/Treasurer

MINUTES of the ATHENAEUM SOCIETY

October 3, 2019

Vice-President Powell convened the October meeting of the Athenaeum Society at the Carnegie Library.

Roll was called, and 22 members were present. The financial report was made, and the balance was \$3586.96. Minutes were read and approved.

Excuses for previous absences were given by Jim Adams, Wynn Radford, and Jason Powell.

Wendell Lynch announced that the Pioneers would not be able to provide our meal on January 2nd. Other plans will be made.

Papers were presented by Edward H. Higgins, III, a member since 1984 and #5 in seniority and Daniel Stahl, a member since 2017 and #31 in seniority.

Happy presented "David William Beautiful Bald Eagle." Bald Eagle was born in 1919 on the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe Reservation in South Dakota. He eventually established a name for himself as a trainer and stunt man in Hollywood. But as exciting as it must have been to work with John Wayne, Errol Flynn, and Marilyn Monroe, it was still low on Bald Eagle's adrenalin rush meter. A list of activities through his memorable life would include pole vaulting, boxing, rodeo, cavalry, and soldier. During the Second World War, he parachuted into both Italy and Normandy. More impressive still was his impact on the people around him. He touched them with his "silent compassion" and his endless capacity to love.

The title of Daniel Stahl's paper "Benedict Arnold – Savior of the American Revolution" certainly leaves the listener with one gigantic question. Follow Daniel's story to see how he changes Arnold from traitor to savior. First, Arnold was a hero. He was the Continental Army's most courageous warrior. After Arnold was injured in a battle, George Washington made him military governor of Philadelphia. While serving in that position, he made some ill-advised and probably illegal decisions. In a court martial, he was found not guilty of the major charges, but when Washington reprimanded him for minor violations, Arnold resigned his commission. He then decided he would turn over West Point on the Hudson River to the British, but that required him getting back into the army and convincing Washington to put him in command there. That was accomplished but was probably the last thing that went well for Arnold. Mistakes, bad timing, and rotten luck caused the plan to fall apart. His co-conspirator was caught and hanged, and Arnold ended up in the British army and at the top of our most hated list. But what about savior of the Revolution? Daniel tells us that at this point many Americans were growing tired of the war and might soon have given up. Arnold's betrayal united the people and may well have won the war.

.Comments were made by James Coursey, Wendell Lynch, and Jason Powell.

Presenters for the November meeting will be Wynn L. Radford, III, and Robert W. Martin.

Respectfully submitted,

Dave Cavanah, Secretary/Treasurer

MINUTES of the ATHENAEUM SOCIETY
November 7, 2019

President Cavanah convened the November meeting of the Athenaeum Society at the Carnegie Library.

Roll was called, and 32 members were present. The financial report was made, and the balance was \$3228.20. Minutes were read and approved.

Excuses for previous absences were given by Whitney Westerfield, Terry Fuqua, Robert Sivley, Marvin Denison, William Turner, Nick Burnette, Cody Noffsinger, Bill Engler, Robert Ison, and Tom Glover.

Since Pioneers will not be able to provide our meal on January 2, we must select another provider for that evening. The society voted to get that meal from Woodshed.

Papers were presented by Wynn L. Radford, III, a member since 1984 and #6 in seniority and Robert W. Martin, a member since 2014 and #28 in seniority.

In Wynn's paper "Someone Special Once Lived There," he reveals the anxiety he felt in February, 1972, as he waited to see what his draft number would be. A low draft number might very well have meant that he would be sent to Viet Nam. Fortunately, this was the closest Wynn would come to military service, but the experience may have led to his appreciation for those who did serve. His paper profiles nine Hopkinsville men who served with distinction. These men served in the American Revolution, the Civil War, World Wars One and Two, Viet Nam, and Afghanistan. Each served with bravery and honor and deserve not only our nation's gratitude, but the love and respect of our local community.

In 2010, Robert traveled to Germany to check an item off of his bucket list. In his paper "History of the Passion Play," he tells the story of Oberammergau, Germany, and the promise made there in 1633. Threatened by bubonic plague, the people of the town made a vow to God that if He would spare them, the town would produce a Passion Play once every ten years forever. The plague passed, and the town is still keeping that promise. To participate in the play, a person must have been born in Oberammergau or have lived there for 20 years. It takes over 2000 people to put on the play which is almost half the people in the town. In 2000, there were 110 performances and 520,000 visitors. Those numbers speak to the commitment of the community. If you would like to commit to viewing a performance, your next opportunity is in 2020.

Comments were made by William Turner, John Bruce, Cody Noffsinger, Taylor Hayes, Whitney Westerfield, Russ Guffey, Jason Powell, John Atkins, Tom Glover, and Robert Harper.

Presenters for the December meeting will be James G. Adams, Jr., and Chris Gilkey.

Respectfully submitted,

MINUTES of the ATHENAEUM SOCIETY
December 5, 2019

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

Roll was called, and 31 members were present. The financial report was made, and the balance was \$3069.44. Minutes were read and approved.

Excuses for previous absences were given by Lindsey Adams, Edward Higgins, Brett Pritchett, Mitchell Kaye, Matt Frerichs, and Hollis White.

President Cavanah asked for a moment of silence for former Athenaeum Society member Mark Schweizer who died last month.

Papers were presented by James G. Adams, Jr. and Chris Gilkey.

In "Dr. Joseph Warren – The Forgotten Revolutionary Patriot," Jim tells us about a man whose actions were heroic but who was overlooked by history. During the period between 1773 and 1775, Dr. Warren was appointed to the Boston Committee of Correspondence as well as becoming President of the Massachusetts Provincial Congress. He also became a very strong, very vocal, very visible opponent of the royal government. In June of 1775, he was killed during the Battle of Bunker Hill as he tried to allow the Colonial Militia to escape. After his death, his body was severely mutilated by British soldiers. So why is this hero not as well known to us as many of his contemporaries are? Jim thinks the fact that Dr. Warren died so early in the war stripped him of the visibility that should have been his.

Chris Gilkey's paper "What the ? Why Would You Do That? Who Am I?" tested the knowledge as well as the memory of the audience. The paper is built on the premise that all Presidents of the United States must either be crazy or quirky and perhaps both. Chris set different scenarios involving former Presidents and asked us to name the president involved. For instance, this President owned 80 pairs of pants and changed them several times a day. He hired a valet to attend to his clothes. That President was Chester Arthur. Chris gave several other examples of quirky Presidents and certainly proved his point.

Comments were made by James Coursey, Russ Guffey, Lindsey Adams, Robert Harper, William Turner, Marvin Denison, and Duncan Cavanah.

Presenters for the January meeting will be Marvin D. Denison and William Myers, Jr.

Respectfully submitted,

Dave Cavanah, Secretary/Treasurer