

MINUTES of the ATHENAEUM SOCIETY

January 2, 2020

President Cavanah convened the January 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 \$3040.68. Minutes were read, and Jim Adams made an addition. He would like to include the fact that U.S. Representative from Kentucky Ben Chandler was Wynn Radford's guest at the December meeting.

Excuses for previous absences were given by Jason Powell, Taylor Hayes, and Robert Martin.

Papers were presented by Marvin Denison and William Myers.

The first sentence in Marvin Denison's paper "Immigrants Get It Done" says, "There is no more compelling story than that of the struggle to complete the largest domestic construction project of the 19th century." It kind of hooks you. Right? The project was to build a rail line from Omaha, Nebraska, to California in the 1860's. That is impressive distance made more impressive by the 7,500 foot climb through the Rockies. The mountains necessitated blasting and digging through deep rock. Almost all of this was done with hand tools, and the number of laborers needed was massive. Probably 90 percent of the men hired to do this dangerous work were Chinese. As many as 20,000 worked on the project between 1865 and 1869. The completion of this rail line opened the west to travel from the east and left us even today with a debt of gratitude to these immigrant workers.

Will presented the story of the Cuba Cubs and the Kentucky State Basketball Championship that they won in 1952. In "Kings of the Bluegrass," we follow a group of boys who grew up in and around the small town of Cuba in far Western Kentucky. Charles Floyd (nicknamed "Doodle"), Howard Crittenden ("Howie"), and James Webb ("Jimmie") formed the core of the team. The three, along with Raymond McClure and Joe Buddy Warren, gained the attention of the varsity coach (Jack Story) when they were seventh graders. Story helped them establish a goal of winning the state tournament. As juniors, the boys made it to Lexington and played in the "Sweet Sixteen" at newly built Memorial Coliseum. They won their first three games but lost in the final game to Clark County. They had come close but still had not realized their dream. They began their senior season with new resolve and again won the regional tournament. Once again the Cuba team made it to the final game where they would meet DuPont Manual, a school with an enrollment of over 3000 students. This time our heroes prevailed, beating Manual 58 to 52. It was the culmination of a dream for the five seniors and a win for small towns that we still celebrate.

Comments were made by Mitchell Kaye, Happy Higgins, Chris Gilkey, Jason Powell, John Bruce, Robert Harper, Paul Fourshee, Russ Guffey, Daniel Stahl, and Cody Noffsinger.

Presenters for the February meeting will be J. Terry Fuqua and John Bruce.

Respectfully submitted,

Dave Cavanah, Secretary/Treasurer

MINUTES of the ATHENAEUM SOCIETY
February 6, 2020

President Cavanah convened the February 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 \$2849.78. Minutes were read and approved.

Excuses for previous absences were given by John Soyars, Cory Pitts, William Turner, Wayne Goolsby, Nick Burnette, and Robert Sivley.

President Cavanah congratulated Wendell Lynch on his appointment as mayor of Hopkinsville. He also read a letter of resignation from Tim Cato and informed the membership Committee that we would need a nomination from them in March.

Daniel Stahl has agreed to take over as director of our website. He requested that presenters send their papers to him in a digital format to prevent scanning papers. Thanks to Daniel for accepting this job and to Terry Fuqua for his years of service in this capacity.

Once again the membership decided to hold our Open Meeting at Oakland Major. Now that we are using our new speaker, the old one will be donated to Carnegie Library.

Papers were presented by Terry Fuqua and John Bruce.

Terry presented his paper "Canton, Kentucky" and explained his interest. James Henry Fuqua, Terry's great-great grandfather, settled there in 1838. Prior to the arrival of John Henry, Abraham Boyd settled at this location in 1799 and began operating a horse mill and cotton gin. By 1823, the community was named Canton, and by 1830, there were 200 residents. River traffic afforded tourist trade income as steamboats on the Cumberland often stopped overnight at Canton. Through the years, roads were built and improved, a mail route was developed, and by 1840, Canton became a prominent shipping point for agricultural products. Canton even received a couple of mentions during the Civil War. In a letter written by Private Osborne of the 18th Michigan infantry, he describes returning to Clarksville from Canton where his unit unsuccessfully attempted to prevent rebel soldiers from crossing the river. There is also a report of a battle between General Nathan Bedford Forrest and the USA gunboat Conestoga. In fact, there are two reports. In one report, Forrest ran the Conestoga off, but in the other, the U.S. ship dispersed the Confederate forces. Guess which side issued which report.

We have all noted that military veterans who have lived through dangerous missions are reluctant to talk about those incidents. Perhaps you have even wondered why they appear to be secretive. John wrote, "Hey, we started a whole new week. It's Monday. (Why Vets don't talk about Military Experiences)" to answer that question. Along the way, he told us a bit about his life and military career. He grew up in Fayette County near Lexington. After joining the Air Force, tracking his movements becomes a bit more complex. We do know at one time or another, he was in Michigan, Washington State, Central America, South America, Guam, Australia, Korea, flew over the Indian Ocean, and took a particularly cold flight at 40,000 feet with no heat over the Pacific. He flew B-52s and managed sorties

from “the chair” aboard the USS Mt. Whitney. He faced hard times and danger and forged friendships with the others that face the same thing. John answers the question about a reluctance to talk by quoting Hoot in the movie *Blackhawk Down*. Hoot has been asked if he is continuing the search mission for a lost comrade. Hoot answers “Still a man out there. When I get home, people ask me why do you do it man, some kind of war junkie. I won’t say ^{a word} ~~work~~; they won’t understand. They won’t understand it’s about the man next to you.” Then as Hoot walks away, he turns and says, “Hey, we started a whole new week. It’s Monday.”

Comments were made by Happy Higgins, Wendell Lynch, Taylor Hayes, Cory Pitts, Jason Powell, Brett Pritchett, William Turner, and Wynn Radford.

Presenters for the March meeting will be Robert J. Cope, II and Tom Glover.

Respectfully submitted,

Dave Cavanah, Secretary/Treasurer

MINUTES of the ATHENAEUM SOCIETY

March 5, 2020

President Cavanah convened the March 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 \$2474.06. Minutes were read and approved.

Excuses for previous absences were given by Dr. Veer and Bob Ison.

President Cavanah reminded the Nominating Committee (Dr. Veer, Hollis White, and John Atkins) that they would need to nominate our next slate of officers at the April meeting.

Membership Committee (John Bruce, Cody Noffsinger, and Taylor Hayes) made a nomination to fill our one vacancy. He will be voted on in April.

It was determined that holding future meetings could pose a health hazard due to Covid 19. The society decided to wait to make a decision about the April and May meetings.

Papers were presented by Robert J. Cope, III, and Tom Glover.

Bob presented "Where am I Going and How do I Get There?" He started by posing questions about orientation. How do humans orient themselves in a strange city? How are wasps able to hunt and then find their nest? How can a pigeon find home from hundreds of miles away? He then answered some of the questions by describing the abilities of box jellyfish, dung beetles, three-striped poison frogs and loggerhead sea turtles. These species rely on the Milky Way, map-like navigation systems, and the earth's magnetic field to find their way around. It's a good thing we have GPS.

Tom talked about something that has intrigued him for a while. In "The Common Law of Slavery in Kentucky," he combined his study of the law with his interest in history. He has concentrated primarily on 93 cases that were decided by the Kentucky Court of Appeals. The cases all deal with slavery and are referred to as common law. All of the cases took place between 1803 and 1935 and involved primarily Emancipation and estate matters. At least 40 counties were involved with Jefferson County leading the way with 15 cases. Christian County had two. Tom is currently expanding his study and will study cases in at least two other slave states.

Comments were made by Terry Fuqua, Bob Ison, Daniel Stahl, Taylor Hayes, Cody Noffsinger, Robert Harper, Hollis White and Wynn Radford.

Presenters for the September meeting will be Russ Guffey and Nick Burnette.

Respectfully submitted,

Dave Cavanah, Secretary/Treasurer

MINUTES of the ATHENAEUM SOCIETY
April 2020

The April Meeting was cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Future meeting plans will be reviewed and planned at the recommendation of the President.

Respectfully submitted,

Cody Noffsinger, Secretary/Treasurer

MINUTES of the ATHENAEUM SOCIETY
May 2020

The May Open Meeting was cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Future meeting plans will be reviewed and planned at the recommendation of the President.

Respectfully submitted,

Cody Noffsinger, Secretary/Treasurer

MINUTES of the ATHENAEUM SOCIETY
September 3, 2020

The September Meeting was cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Future meeting plans will be reviewed and planned at the recommendation of the President.

Respectfully submitted,

Cody Noffsinger, Secretary/Treasurer

MINUTES of the ATHENAEUM SOCIETY
October 1, 2020

President Powell convened the October meeting of the Athenaeum Society at the Studio 3 on the corner of 9th and Virginia Streets. Due to COVID-19 the meeting was also held virtually through the Zoom app.

Roll was called, and 27 members were present (20 in person and 7 virtually). The financial report was made, and the balance was \$2,294.91. Minutes were read and approved.

Excuses for previous absences were given by Charles Russell Guffey, Jason Powell, John Soyars, and Will Myers.

President Powell stated that he would be naming a Nominating & Membership Committee at the November meeting.

The Membership voted to keep dues at the same price as a whole year, even though it was understood that meetings may be entirely virtual in nature going forward due to the pandemic.

Jerry Gilliam was voted by the membership to fill the open membership position.

Papers were presented by Charles Russell Guffey and Nick Burnette.

Russ presented "Henry the Eighth, I Am". In 1910 Fred Murray and R. P. Weston wrote the British music hall song "*I'm Henry the Eighth, I Am*". Despite its misleading title, the song lyrics were not about the famous royal, but rather a widow who married eight men all named Henry. Much like this widow, King Henry VIII is famous for the salacious marriages and accompanying divorces involving his six wives, but unbeknownst to many Henry fathered numerous children out of wedlock. Henry developed a relationship with Mary Boleyn the sister of his second wife, Anne Boleyn. His mistress gave birth to two children, Catherine and Henry Carey. Russ, in great detail, traced their bloodline all the way to the New World, eventually revealing his own familial connection. After proclaiming his royalty, he cheekily stated "Henry the VII, I Am."

In "The Reason on Wearing Neckties" Nick sought to answer the age-old question, why do we wear neckties? The first people to wear what would become the modern-day neck ties were Croatian Soldiers, called the Croats, as a part of their military uniforms. Over the years to come the necktie would become a staple of men's fashion, but the styles, fabric, and patterns would vary throughout the decades. Through his research, Nick learned, that even though a tie makes you look sharply dressed they have become a symbol of power and professionalism. That symbolism has become the main reason we still wear neckties today.

Comments were made by Jim Coursey, Brett Pritchett, Robert Martin, Taylor Hayes, Bob Ison, William Turner, Cory Pitts, and Cody Noffsinger.

Presenters for the November meeting will be John Atkins and Wayne Goolsby.

Respectfully submitted,

MINUTES of the ATHENAEUM SOCIETY
November 5, 2020

President Powell convened the November meeting of the Athenaeum Society. Due to the heightened risk of the COVID-19 pandemic the meeting was held virtually through the Zoom app.

Roll was called, and 23 members were present. The financial report was made, and the balance was \$2,070.72. Minutes were read and approved.

Excuses for previous absences were given by

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Jerry Gilliam was voted by the membership to fill the open membership position.

Papers were presented by John Atkins and Wayne Goolsby.

Judge Atkins presented "Two Kentuckians on the United States Supreme Court". In this paper Atkins detailed the distinguished legal careers, but wildly different demeanors and characters, of the two Kentuckians to serve on the highest court in the land, Judge Louis Brandeis and Justice James Clark McReynolds. James Clark McReynolds was born in Elkton, KY in 1860. He served as the Attorney General under Woodrow Wilson who also appointed him to the Supreme Court in 1914. Justice McReynolds was known for his stubbornness, abrasive personality, anti-Semitism and racist views. Justice Brandeis was born in November 13, 1856 and was the son of a wealthy Jewish family. A Harvard graduate, he was also appointed to the Supreme Court by President Wilson. However, his confirmation process was arduous and long due to anti-Semitic views presented during the hearings. His reputation was remarkable, known as a Justice who supported working class citizens. Justice McReynolds retired in 1939, passed in 1941, and is buried under the front portico of the school of law at the University of Louisville, known as the Brandeis School of Law. This paper is an interesting case in polar opposites, two men from the same state, serving on the Supreme Court at the same time, but who could not be more different in character.

In "Where Did Y'all Stay," Wayne Goolsby presented a virtual tour of a few iconic and some best forgotten hotels of the American South. Goolsby proclaimed that in addition to newspapers and trains, he has a fascination with hotels that are distinct, unique, and the center of interesting stories. Hotels that are a far cry from the cookie cutter chain hotels that line the interstates today. He went on to describe the many long forgotten hotels in our region, such as the Bell Hotel in Elkton, the Canton Hotel in Trigg County, the Jefferson Davis Hotel in Elkton, and the Royal York Hotel of Clarksville. He also noted a few southern charm hotels that are still in operation today, such as the Hermitage in Nashville, the iconic Peabody of Memphis, TN, The Atlantan Hotel of Atlanta, and the Galt House of Louisville. I would be remiss if I did not mention that Goolsby began his paper honoring the legendary Latham Hotel, which was the site of this Society's origin in 1902. Destroyed by a fire in 1940, the Hotel Latham still

lives on in Hopkinsville folklore to this day. Wayne Goolsby's request at the conclusion of his paper was the next time you travel to resist the urge to stay in a "safe" "well-known" chain hotel and take a chance on a locally owned facility. He states, "At the worst, you will have a great story to tell"

Comments were made by

Presenters for the December meeting will be Duncan Cavanah and Robert Sivley.

Respectfully submitted,

Cody Noffsinger, Secretary/Treasurer

MINUTES of the ATHENAEUM SOCIETY
December 3, 2020

President Powell convened the December meeting of the Athenaeum Society. Due to the heightened risk of the COVID-19 pandemic the meeting was held virtually through the Zoom app.

Roll was called, and 22 members were present. The financial report was made, and the balance was \$2,070.72. Minutes were read and approved.

Excuses for previous absences were given by Robert Martin, Robert Harper, Taylor Hayes, and Russ Guffey.

President Powell stated that he would be naming a Nominating & Membership Committee at the January meeting.

A paper was presented by Duncan Cavanah.

Duncan Cavanah presented "A Little More Conversation: The President and the King." "Historical events, like politics, can make strange bedfellows", Cavanah proclaimed while opening his paper. Fifty years ago, two dynamic forces, yet polar opposite individuals, had one of these historic encounters. The subjects of this topic were none other than the King of Rock and Roll, Elvis Presley, and President Richard Nixon. Elvis Presley was known to have an infatuation with Police duties. He received honorary badges from police departments throughout the country, including a Reserve Captain badge from the City of Memphis. Although these badges were honorary in nature, he most certainly did not believe this, and was known to work traffic accidents and even pull private citizens over for speeding. One fateful evening, the King of Rock, came up with a wild idea. He wanted his very own badge from the Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs. This idea set the stage, so to speak, for the meeting between himself and the infamous President Nixon. Cavanah dived into this assembly in depth. Elvis's addiction issues are widely known and Nixon is remembered as a conservative hardliner on the other end of the spectrum from the counterculture of the times. To Elvis, this badge was a sign of power to give him the autonomy to travel with narcotics as he so pleased. To Nixon, this meeting would appeal to a broader audience of voters that he had not been able to tap into. Even the strangest of partnerships can be made if each party has something to be gained.

Comments were made by Mitchell Kaye, Dan Stahl, Russ Guffey, Terry Fuqua, Cody Noffsinger, Bob Ison, John Atkins, David Cavanah, Happy Higgins, and Jason Powell.

Presenters for the January meeting will be Jim Coursey and Bob Ison.

Respectfully submitted,

Cody Noffsinger, Secretary/Treasurer