

MINUTES of the ATHENAEUM SOCIETY

January 7, 2021

President Powell convened the January 2021 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 25 members were present. The financial report was made, and the balance was \$2,830.72. Minutes were read and approved.

Excuses for previous absences were given by James Coursey, Cory Pitts, Marvin Dennison, and Veerabhadra Chirravuri.

President Powell named a Nominating & Membership Committee at the January meeting. The Nominating Committee consists of members Cory Pitts, William Myers, and Nick Burnette. The Membership Committee includes members Taylor Hayes, Paul Fourshee, and Lindsey Adams.

Papers were presented by Jim Coursey and Bob Ison

Jim Coursey presented "he DeHavilland Mosquito." Right before the Second World War and just as it commenced two books were written titled "While England Slept." One was penned by Winston Churchill in 1938 and the other by John F. Kennedy in 1940. The subject of both revolved around England's aloof attitude toward Germany and Hitler's threat as he stormed to power. According to Coursey, one such person who remained wide awake was none other than Geoffrey DeHavilland a renowned aircraft designer. Among other planes, such as the Beaver, a versatile bush plane and the Comet, the world's first commercial jet airliner, he is responsible for the construction of the "plane that saved Britain," the DeHavilland Mosquito. The Mosquito was designed to be a wood-framed, high-speed, unarmed bomber, an essential tool in winning the battle, not only of the sky, but the land as well. The plane was an engineering marvel, one of the world's first multi-roll combat aircraft, and at the time of its launch the fastest plane in the world. It was versatile and touted a low casualty rate. Of the 7,781 manufactured only 92 were lost during the war. Coursey went on to detail the Mosquito's impressive combat record during WWII, including multiple bombings of Berlin and the destruction of the Nazi V2 guided ballistic missile program. This modest, but mighty aircraft, was an integral part to the Allied victory and dutifully earned its place in history.

In "Remus Volstead Reserve" Bob Ison revealed a satisfying discovery he had recently made. Ison, a self-proclaimed, Bourbon snob had recently received a bottle of bourbon from an acquaintance. However, he was not readily familiar with particular brand of spirit. Upon further research he was horrified to find out that the distiller of this particular bourbon, G. Remus Distilling Company, was located in Lawrenceburg. Not Lawrenceburg, KY, but rather Lawrenceburg, IN. See up until this moment, he knew bourbon did not have to be made in Kentucky, but he believed only good bourbon came from Kentucky. After setting his bourbon smugness aside, he did a little more research of this bottle. He was surprised to find it was a rare 14-year-old bourbon that was released on the 100th anniversary of the Volstead Act. He also wondered what was a Remus? George Remus, the namesake of the aforementioned distillery, was nicknamed the "king of the bootleggers." Remus, a German immigrant, started his working career as a pharmacist, but soon became a successful lawyer, even pioneering the "temporary insanity" defense. After the passing of the Volstead Act, Remus used his expertise in law to exploit the act's

“bottled in bond” loophole. He often stole his own legal medicinal bourbon and sold it to bootleggers. He amassed a massive \$40,000,000 fortune through this scam, but this was only the beginning of his fantastical story filled with extravagance, deceit, prison, and crimes of passion. It has been said he was an inspiration for F. Scott Fitzgerald’s the “Great Gatsby.” I may argue his direct biography would have suited Fitzgerald just fine. As for the gifted bottle of bourbon, Ison exclaimed it was a fantastic pour, but only to be accompanied by a little ice.

Comments were made by Talyor Hayes, Terry Fuqua, Michell Kaye, Hollis White, Robert Harper, John Bruce, and Jason Powell.

Presenters for the February 2021 meeting will be Mitchell Kaye and John Soyars.

Respectfully submitted,

Cody Noffsinger, Secretary/Treasurer

MINUTES of the ATHENAEUM SOCIETY
February 4, 2021

President Powell convened the February 2021 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 25 members were present. The financial report was made, and the balance was \$3,230.72. Minutes were read and approved.

Excuses for previous absences were given by Cody Noffsinger, Brett Pritchett, Happy Higgins, and Russ Guffey.

Papers were presented by Mitchell Kaye and John Soyars

John Soyars presented "Day of Destruction: August 1, 1944," Soyars detailed the history behind a particular date that is not very familiar to history buffs, like himself. There are many uprisings that have their place in history as timeless tales, but the Warsaw Uprising of 1944, the topic of this paper, is just as important as it is little known. Warsaw a city of 900,000 inhabitants was the largest city between Berlin and Moscow carving out its strategic importance during WWII. Hitler's army invaded Poland on September 1st, 1939, only nine days after the Hitler Stalin Pact of August 23, which pledged non-aggression between the two regimes and secretly agreed to divide Poland between them. However, as an old city Warsaw lent tactical advantages to underground uprisings. Soyars, went on to explain the events that led to August 1, 1944 and the uprising by a rebel group called "Armia Krajowa", or AK. After a series of thrilling events the Polish Uprising ended on October 1, 1944 with the Poles surrendering. The speaker left with one question, Although the Poles stood valiantly, was it worth it? Over 15,000 rebel and 200,000 civilian casualties were measured. The city was ordered to be razed by Himmler. John's obvious answer was "No." Were the fighters brave and the citizens resolute, yes. Did they show spirit and fight heroically, yes, but again at what cost?

Mitchell Kaye

Comments were made by Brett Pritchett, Cody Noffsinger, Hollis White, Happy Higgins, James Adams, John Soyars, and Mitchell Kaye.

Presenters for the March 2021 meeting will be Whitney Westerfield..

Respectfully submitted,

Cody Noffsinger, Secretary/Treasurer

MINUTES of the ATHENAEUM SOCIETY
March 4, 2021

President Powell convened the March 2021 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 19 members were present. The financial report was made, and the balance was \$3,230.72. Minutes were read, but tabled for approval at the following meeting.

Excuses for previous absences were given by Whitney Westerfield.

A Paper was presented by Whitney Westerfield

Westerfield has been a lifelong student of the human will to explore the next frontier, space. During his formative years shuttle launches, the Challenger tragedy, and missions such as the launch of the Hubble Telescope sparked his imagination to continue to learn of awe-inspiring advances of the human race as we set to explore the worlds outside our atmosphere, a fascination he still holds today. In "Dare Mighty Things", Westerfield details one of the newest missions to explore our neighboring planet, the Mars Perseverance Rover. Perseverance is not Earth's first rover to explore the red planet, nor the only one currently traveling across its surface, but as the new kid on the block it has many new designs and features. Some of these include a drill to collect soil samples and store for future missions, a gas chromatograph, mass spectrometer, 23 on board cameras, and a microphone giving us our first sounds from another planet! Perseverance even has packed along a detachable drone. Its mission is to study and seek signs of ancient life and collect samples of soil for possible return to Earth. Tools, such as an x-ray imager used to detect if microbes had existed on the planet or a RIMFAX that can detect the presence of water will certainly help its cause. Though we do not know what this explorer may find, we can agree it will inspire another generation of future explorers to join the 11 million names, saved in Perseverance's three silicon chips, of human beings who wanted to be as close as possible to Mars. Due to Perseverance's awe-inspiring technology and defining place in the human race's mission of space exploration, the next generation space explorers will indeed continue to "Dare Mighty Things."

Comments were made by Russ Guffey, Cody Noffsinger, Bob Ison, Jerry Gilliam, Terry Fuqua, Bob Cope, John Bruce, and Jason Powell.

Presenters for the April 2021 meeting will be Lindsey Adams and Cory Pitts..

Respectfully submitted,

Cody Noffsinger, Secretary/Treasurer

MINUTES of the ATHENAEUM SOCIETY

April 1, 2021

President Powell convened the April 2021 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 \$3,707.65. Minutes were read and approved.

Excuses for previous absences were given by Taylor Hayes, Dan Stahl, Marvin Denison, Cory Pitts, Veerabhadra Chirravuri, Robert Martin, and Hollis White.

Dr. Robert Sivley was voted as a Member Emeritus in honor of his over 50 years of dedication to the Athenaeum Society. Dr. Sivley submitted his resignation in March of 2021, but was unanimously bestowed this honor by the Society at the April 2021 meeting.

Two new members were nominated for membership. A motion was made Whitney Westerfield to suspend the voting and discussion term requirement. Therefore, the nominees would be voted upon at the April 2021 meeting. The motion was approved and voted upon unanimously to suspend the required term. Chris Jung and Jamus Redd were voted into the Athenaeum Society in the April 2021 meeting.

A Paper was presented by Cory Pitts

It has been stated that the average American coffee drinker consumes three cups of coffee per day or, in other words, over 400 million cups of coffee are gulped in this country each and every day. As a society we are coffee obsessed and this month's presenter is no different. Pitts, a self-proclaimed "cofeephile", is always in search for the perfect cup, and in "Not Your Average Joe" he takes us on his journey to find just that. Coffee originated in Ethiopia and its popularity took off in the 1500's as coffeeshops began to spring up in the Arab world. These establishments became a place to fellowship and exchange ideas, much like they are still used today. Cory began drinking coffee after the birth of his daughter as a remedy for sleepless nights. However, over time his reasons for staying hooked on the "joe" have evolved from being a lifeline to pure enjoyment. He was first inspired by a cup of Ethiopian Yirgecheffe brewed by a Hario V60 and sipped in Louisville coffeeshop. He has chased that cup ever since and began his life's work trying to perfect his brew. During his paper, Pitts educated the audience on the intricacy of coffee beans, the importance of the roast, and helped us match the perfect brewing apparatus to our tastes. Due to his admitted "coffee snobbery," each morning he ensures he enjoys an above average cup of joe to begin his day, but he also confesses that due to the complexity of this drink he has much to learn. He is surely not alone. Tomorrow morning, over a 100 million Americans will join him for their very own perfect cup of coffee.

Comments were made by Hollis White, Cody Noffsinger, Whitney Westerfield, Brett Pritchett, Nick Burnette, Jason Powell, Terry Fuqua, Taylor Hayes, Veerabhadra Chirravuri, and Robert Harper.

Presenters for the May 2021 open meeting will be Matt Frerichs and Brett Pritchett.

Respectfully submitted,

Cody Noffsinger, Secretary/Treasurer

MINUTES of the ATHENAEUM SOCIETY

May 6, 2021 – Open Meeting

President Powell convened the May 6th 2021 Open Meeting of the Athenaeum Society. The meeting was held at Casey Jones Distillery. Dinner was provided by Four Seasons Catering.

Roll was not called, but 61 members and guests were present. As custom during Open Meeting financial report was not made, the April 2021 meeting Minutes read or approved, nor excuses for previous absences were given.

AJ, owner and operator, at Casey Jones gave a short history lesson of the distillery and his family in the bootlegging industry.

Members introduced their guests as custom during Open Meetings.

Two new members Chris Jung and Jamus Redd were introduced.

Papers were presented by Matt Frerichs and Brett Pritchett

The town of Alliance is a small, quiet, prairie town in western Nebraska located hours from a major interstate or airport. The town folk of Alliance are your typical westerners- hardy, reserved, unpretentious, and hard-working people. It is no wonder that their claim to fame is a piece of folk art that mightily represents their rugged enduring personality. In “The Story of Carhenge”, Frerichs detailed the fascinating history behind Carhenge, a replica of England’s famous Stonehenge constructed of junk cars in a field outside of Alliance. The installation was the idea of Jim Reinders, who, along with his family, built the remarkably accurate replica in a wheat field outside Alliance as a tribute to his late father. Carhenge was constructed using a back hoe and more than thirty old cars in one in week during the year of 1987. Despite its magnificence, the people of Alliance began to ask the question, was it art or was it a junkyard? The City ultimately decided it was a zone violation, but something under the surface began to brew. Carhenge became a national sensation being featured by the Denver Post, the New York Times, the Chicago Tribune, and even all the way to England. Even though Jim was ordered to tear it down, local businesses began to see an increase in tourism as visitors from all over traveled to see the famous Carhenge. This quickly caused critics to change their tune and eventually the City of Alliance to reverse its decision. Over the years the legend of Carhenge took a life of its own, even winning the “Travelers Choice Award for 2020”. This story truly is one that confirms the age-old sayings “bad publicity is good publicity” and “art is in the eye of the beholder.” Sometimes it is hard to believe that gems can be found in the wheat fields of Western Nebraska. However, Carhenge is one of those discoveries, but only if you are so inclined to look.

For our last paper, the location of this Open Meeting, Casey Jones Distillery, just so happened to be the perfect setting for a subject matter as smooth as the bourbon aging in the oak barrels that accompanied our presence. In “A Spirited Topic: How Drinks Shaped Human History”, Pritchett took us on a journey down the annals of history highlighting the impact of beverages on societal, political, and economic trends on human civilization. He first brought us to Sumer, a region in southern Mesopotamia, during 3400 BCE. The Sumerians had developed the first city-state as humans shifted from a hunter-gather lifestyle to an agrarian culture. Temples were built to house grain, the national diet of ancient

Mesopotamia. Due to its importance, grain became a form of currency and not only in its solid form, but in its liquid one as well, better known as beer. The production of beer was highly valued and the consumption of which was seen as one of the main differences between civilized societies and ancient nomadic lifestyles. The production of beer led to the growth of human civilization, trade routes, and the creation or discovery of other drinks. One of most upmost importance was wine, which was connected to the cultural and intellectual development of Greek society. Another was distilled spirits, popularized by Muslim scholars of the Islamic Empires of the Middle East and initially used for medicinal purposes. Even American history is rooted in fluidic controversary. American ideals were debated in brew halls and coffee houses during British colonial rule. A little sipper, known as tea, may have brought these beliefs to a tipping point of revolution during the Boston Tea Party in 1773. After “spilling the tea”, three years later these colonists would declare their independence. This account cannot begin to lead us through every topic that flowed throughout this paper’s integral theme. However, we did learn that every time a human decides to take a drink history is sure to follow.

Comments were made by Bob Ison, David Cavanah, Bob Ison, Robert Harper, Cody Noffsinger, Hollis White, Jason Powell, James Adams, and John Atkins among others.

President Powell announced the “Hal King Twinkie Award” for perfect attendance to the following Athenaeum Society members: Terry Fuqua, Bob Ison, Jason Powell, John Soyars, John Atkins, and Paul Fourshee.

Presenters for the September 2021 open meeting will be George Engler and Lindsey Adams.

Respectfully submitted,

Cody Noffsinger, Secretary/Treasurer

**MINUTES of the ATHENAEUM SOCIETY
02 September 2021**

President Jim Coursey convened the 02 September 2021 meeting at the Carnegie Library. Dinner was served by The Pioneers.

The roll was called and 26 members were present. Absent were William Turner, James G. Adams, Jr, Terry Fuqua Mitch Kaye, Russ Guffey, Duncan Cavanah, Jason Powell, Whitney Westerfield, Robert Martin, Cody Noffsinger, Veerabhadra Chirravuri, William Myers, Jr and Chris Jung.

Minutes of the 06 May Open Meeting were read. Motion to approve was made by Happy Higgins and seconded by Hollis White. The motion carried.

No Financial Report, but President Coursey informed us that there is \$4,254.65 in the bank at the moment.

Excuses for absences from the prior meeting were given and accepted.

Papers were presented by George Engler (#3 in seniority) and Lindsey Adams (#22 in seniority).

George Engler

George's paper - Europe's Greatest Military Strategist - focused on the genius of Napoleon, who (obviously thinking of himself FIRST and perhaps a FEW others) said early in life, "men of genius are meteors destined to be consumed in illuminating their century." No slouch in that department, he has been compared to Alexander the Great, Hannibal and Genghis Khan.

Not unlike Hitler in the Second World War, Napoleon at his pinnacle had total dominance over every aspect of the French government. Also in common with Hitler, he didn't physically look much like a leader.

Small in stature and with a tendency to stoutness from an early age, he was an easy target for hostile caricatures. At the same time he was both charming and crude, considerate and outspoken and often vulgar. But, he had a hypnotic effect on people, and could enthral almost any man or woman that he encountered. And, thus hypnotized, their loyalty was assured - particularly with his troops, even down to the lowest rank and file.

Napoleon was superior to other men by virtue of the range and clarity of his intelligence. His powers of concentration were formidable, his grasp of detail phenomenal and he had a capacity for hard work. He expected instant obedience and accepted nothing less.

Napoleon was both a realist and a fatalist. But his belief in his own divine destiny clouded his sense of reality. He was unable to accept his final defeat at Waterloo. His idea of centralization of supreme authority took the form of thinking and saying that "in war men are nothing; one man is everything". This megalomania led to illogical and extreme vendettas. His struggles with Britain took on overtones of a Mafia feud.

Napoleon was a quick learner and never forgot his past mistakes. He was a master of timing and pre-planning. He was not one to impart his innermost military secrets to men who might become his rivals. One of these secrets was that "the best form of defense is attack". He used speed, deception and surprise to mount blitzkrieg attacks with astonishing success. As head of state, Napoleon alone decided policy and "grand strategy" and selected objectives. Short, decisive campaigns were first and foremost among these objectives.

By far his most important of his military strategies was that of envelopment. With superior French forces, he would engage the enemy in a frontal attack with a small force. Then, with cavalry cover he would flank the enemy and actually get behind his opponent's forces - thereby cutting off supply lines, administrative services and lines of communication.

Napoleon is not to be judged solely as a commander, or national leader, or as a man. He was one of the few men in history whose lives have to be seen as a part of history itself - shaping and being shaped by evolution of nations, societies and ideas.

Lindsey Adams

Lindsey's paper, entitled "I See What You Are Saying" was a treatise on non verbal communication. Researchers have spouted figures claiming that 93% of all communication from one individual to another is non-verbal. Perhaps a more realistic figure would be a 65/35 % split, non-verbal to verbal. No matter what figures we plug into this dynamic, there is no doubt at all concerning how important non-verbal communication is in our everyday lives. Those closest to us (family and business associates) are well attuned the nuances of our non-verbal communication - as much as we are to theirs.

Lindsey related a case in point from what the Christian County District Court calls "Spanish Court". Here Spanish speaking people (and other language cases) are provided an interpreter by the Court. One case involved a man up on charges of driving without a drivers's license. He had not thought or remembered to bring his license with him to court. With the language barrier and with a judge behind behind a mask, the result was tantamount to non-verbal communication. Sensing fear in the mans eyes, behind HIS mask. Lindsey removed his own and smiled at the man, who immediately relaxed. The case was continued for a month; so that the man could return - with his license.

Body movements and facial expressions are readily identifiable forms of non-verbal communication. In other Court examples, there is the shaking of the head, the incredulous look and gestures made while speaking. As eyes are the window of the soul, the eyes of the person with whom you are speaking more often than not reveal volumes.

Most people think that liars give themselves away by eye movements and gestures, but research tells us that people do a lousy job of spotting liars.

Communication is profoundly affected by our physical environment. The layout of a room, over or under lit rooms and the placement of furniture all come in to play. Touchy communicators also have a profound effect. Back patters, hand shakers, and arm touchers usually produce an unwelcome sensation.

Sign language is another useful - and essential for the hearing impaired - form of non-verbal communication. Sign writing consists of more than 5000 distinct iconic graphs/glyphs.

We can use non-verbal signals to emphasize our words. Forceful gestures, change in volume or speech rate and deliberate pauses, are all examples.

There is more to seeing what someone is saying to us than just what we hear - a lot more. We just have to look as we listen to digest it all.

Comments on the papers were given by Dan Stahl, John Atkins, Taylor Hayes, John Bruce and Jim Coursey.

The 7th of October papers will be presented by George Byars and Charles David Cavanah.

Three members paid their 2021/2022 dues on Thursday 02 September. Wendell Lynch, Lindsey Adams and Jim Coursey

MEETING ADJOURNED

MINUTES of the ATHENAEUM SOCIETY
October 7, 2021

President Coursey convened the October 2021 meeting of the Athenaeum Society at the Carnegie Library in downtown Hopkinsville.

Roll was called, and 23 members were present. The financial report was made, and the balance was \$4,396.45. Minutes were read and approved.

Excuses for previous absences were given by Chris Jung, Cody Noffsinger, William Turner, Dr. Terry Fuqua, Robert Martin, James Adams.

A Paper was presented by David Cavanah. George Byars was not able to present due to an illness.

In "The Intriguing Death of William Marsh Rice" Cavanah took the society down a fascinating story of a mysterious death, deceit, and a criminal trial that could not be believed. William Marsh Rice was born in Springfield, MA in 1816. Rice possessed an extremely hard work ethic and busy savvy mindset. He worked in many trades and owned multiple businesses. After moving to Houston around the age of twenty-one he worked his way to being the second richest man in Texas by 1860 with a net worth of \$750,000. After the death of his second wife, Rice found himself in a battle for his fortune. His wife, Elizabeth, had left her half of the estate to her heirs, which would have totaled millions. Rice had plans to use his estate to establish the William M. Rice Institute for the Advancement of Literature, Science, and Art. Knowing how important this entity would be to the city of Houston, an attorney from a long line Houstonians, Captain Baker, agreed to represent Rice. However, Rice's newly hired valet, Charles Jones had other plans in mind. Jones and his con-conspirator Albert Patrick, a New York attorney representing Elizabeth's will, set their eyes on Rice's fortune and devised a plan to murder him under mysterious circumstances. Captain Baker sniffed out this devious deed and set out to expose the conspirators behind Rice's untimely death. What was to unfold included a criminal trial that comprised of a double-cross, faulty forensic studies, and ultimately a conviction that is still debated to this day. Captain Baker continued to fight Elizabeth's will, which meant the bulk of Rice's estate was donated to the institute. In 1960, this school changed its name to Rice University, which still exists as one of the most lauded institutions in history. At Rice, students and professors conduct research in many fields, one of which is criminology.

Comments were made by Wendell Lynch, Chris Jung, James Adams, and Cody Noffsinger.

Presenters for the November 2021 meeting will be Taylor Hayes and Jerry Gilliam.

Respectfully submitted,

Cody Noffsinger, Secretary/Treasurer

MINUTES of the ATHENAEUM SOCIETY
November 4, 2021

The November 4, 2021 Athenaeum meeting was cancelled due to unavoidable and excused absences of the scheduled presenters.

Respectfully submitted,

Cody Noffsinger, Secretary/Treasurer

MINUTES of the ATHENAEUM SOCIETY
December 2, 2021

President Coursey convened the October 2021 meeting of the Athenaeum Society at the Carnegie Library in downtown Hopkinsville.

Roll was called, and 30 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 Taylor Hayes, Jerry Gilliam, Cory Pitts, George Byars, Jason Powell, Chris Gilkey, and Russ Guffey.

Papers was presented by William Turner and Paul Fourshee.

William Turner's paper "Whats Your John Hancock?" illuminated the lives of 16 people in the Hopkinsville area. Presented in chronological order, Turner's subjects included the lives of former slaves, military officers, landowners, a victim of Pearl Harbor, an early hunter, and a midwife. Outstanding among this group are the following ...

Jerald Jackson was an early 19th century hunter in northern Christian County. Known as "Old Axum", until the early 1940's his rock covered grave was a noted landmark and in it his gun, knife and tomahawk were - at his request - interred with him.

Ephraim Cocke - an enslaved African American was brought to Christian County in 1811 by John W. Cocke. In 1824 John's father, Thomas died, and his will set Ephraim his wife and first child Ephraim free. What we have known as Cox Mill Road fo a century and a half was initially Cocke's Mill road, named after the family.

Captain Joshua Cates was a land speculator who became the largest landowner in Christian county in the first half of the 19th century. At his death, the estate listed ownership of 5,541 acres.

Col. Philemon H. Anderson was the postmaster in Cerulean Springs, who in 1835 built the popular twenty-two room Cerulean Springs Hotel on a hilltop. His request to be buried on the grounds near the ballroom so that he could hear the "sweet strains of music' was honored, but he was later moved to Riverside Cemetery.

William Coburn's life (1799 to 1907) spanned three centuries. He moved to Christian County after the Civil War and died here at the age of 107.

Dr. Horace Arlington Alsbury (who was born in Hopkinsville) and his wife were among the few survivors on the attack on the Alamo in 1836.

Accounts of Alsbury's death vary, and his burial location is unknown.

Cassandra Myers Allen (who died in 1899) was Christian County's first woman jailer, succeeding her husband Newton at his death.

Mary "Sweetmary" Wooldridge was born in Washington County, KY and sold into slavery along with her twin sister, whom she never saw again. Arriving in Hopkinsville, she married Albert Wooldridge and became a midwife. She related her life in Slave Narratives, compiled by the Federal Writers' Project of FDR's Works Project Administration.

Sam Blakemore had a popular orchestra in the 1930's comprised of four musicians. He was a feature at parties in Hopkinsville and the Dawson Springs and Cerulean hotels. Ervin "Beck" Brame was one of the few baseball players to reach the major leagues. He started out with the Hoptown Hoppers. In the 20th century Simon Titus Daniel ran a front-page ad in the paper for a wife. After over 600 responses, Titus ended up marrying a girl he already knew.

Perhaps you will one day see your own biography added to this list, or your descendants will.

Paul Fourshee's paper was titled "The Effort to Tame the Cumberland River," noting that waterways were an efficient highway system already in place before in the 1700's trails were being blazed into and through Kentucky. Kentucky has nearly 3,000 miles of navigable rivers, not including streams and tributaries.

In our region the Cumberland River is the most heavily traveled. Early French traders called it the Shawnee River. The first recorded sighting of the Cumberland was in 1674 by French explorers Louis Jolliet and Jacques Marquette - who later drew a map from memory.

In 1710, French - Canadian fur trader, Timothy Demonbreun established the French Lick trading post, which later became Nashville. Initially the only means of river travel was by flatboat. These flatboats brought blacksmiths, purveyors of food, drink and dry goods, libraries, thespian troops and "floating mansions of iniquity" - whatever they are.

After Robert Fulton's first successful steamboat in 1807, inland waterways suddenly became a vital part of the U.S. economy. Immediately the Cumberland River became the major interstate highway through Kentucky and central Tennessee.

Waterways quickly became the principal means of transportation of goods to markets in New Orleans and from there to markets in Europe.

The first lock on the Cumberland was commenced in 1887. The Cumberland River Improvement Assn. was formed to create a series of locks to make the River easier to navigate. Of the seven proposed locks, six were built. They were named alphabetically A through G. One of these "E" was built in Trigg County, starting in 1917. E. became operational in November of 1922 at a cost of \$105,000. By the time all the locks were completed in 1927, river traffic was already fast disappearing.

After WW II, as tow boats increased in size, existing locks became so small that barge traffic would have to be split into 3 sections to get through - which took up an inordinate amount of time.

Although ultimately becoming obsolete, these locks had proved to be invaluable to steam transportation - having been the first man made efforts to tame the Cumberland.

Today, on the Cumberland there is massive tow-boat traffic, diesel powered instead of by steam. There are presently ten dams on the Cumberland creating lakes, controlling floods, and generating electricity. The lakes are extremely popular with recreational boaters and fishermen. Timothy Demonbreun could hardly have imagined the contribution of these dams and lakes to the economy of the United States when he first paddled up the river to Nashville.

Comments were made by Brett Pritchett, Happy Higgins, Robert Martin, Robert Harper, Wayne Goolsby, and Marvin Denison.

Presenters for the January 2022 meeting will be James Adams and Chris Gilkey.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Coursey, President