20022 ATHENAEUM MINUTES UNAVAILABLE FOR

January

February

April

MINUTES of the ATHENAEUM SOCIETY March 3, 2022

President Coursey convened the March 2022 meeting of the Athenaeum Society at the Carnegie Library in downtown Hopkinsville.

Roll was called, and 29 members were present. The financial report was made, and the balance was \$3,287.05. Minutes were read and approved.

Excuses for previous absences were given by Jim Adams, Wendell Lynch, Brett Pritchett, Taylor Hayes, Cory Pitts, Robert Harper, Wayne Goolsby, David Cavanah, James Redd, and John Soyars.

Papers were presented by Jason Powell and Chris Jung.

In his playful paper, Jason Powell took the Society down memory lane as he recited the history of board games. Just like many of us, Powell and his family, during the isolation of the pandemic found themselves looking to find activities to spend their idle time. When novels and movies began to run their course, they opened the family game closet. While gazing upon the boxes full of memories he began to ponder where, or how, did games begin? In 1922 ancient board games were discovered in Egyptian and Iraqi archeological sites. The game found in Iraq, named the "The Royal Game of Ur" was believed to be at least 4,000 years old and the most popular game in the Middle East for over 3,000 years. The Guptas, of India created the first known variation of the game of chess, first titled Ashtapada. Ashtapada would reach Europe in 711 where it eventually evolved into the classic format, as we know it. Powell went on to tell the stories of Milton Bradley and George Parker who revolutionized the gaming experience in America. He ended this journey by detailing the long history behind the game of Monopoly that, not only was innovative, but imbedded a political message within its rules. Powell's paper was quite abundant with nostalgic memories of family favorites, such as the Game of Life, Scrabble, and Clue, but he also let the Society in on the fun. To finish the paper, we had the opportunity to satisfy our competitive spirits by playing the Bead Game. A modern game that did not use a board at all, but rather an app, our phones, a screen, and our wits were the tools needed to find our winning ways.

Each May the eyes of the world turn to the Bluegrass State where the pageantry of the Kentucky Derby is on full display at Churchill Downs. Even though this annual tradition is held in Louisville, in the words of William Turner, every story has a tie to Christian County. In a "Longshot in the Dark", Chris Jung told the story of Flying Ebony, a black colt that still stands as the only Hoptown-foaled thoroughbred to win the coveted Kentucky Derby crown. Lucian Mosely, purchased Riverview Dairy Farm, located near Skyline Drive in 1921. This would be Flying Ebony's home until he was sold to Millionaire Gifford Cochran for \$21,000 in 1923. The-2-year-old would find itself the winner in four of his first eight starts, but since none were stakes, his popularity had not followed within the industry. This all changed at the 1925 Kentucky Derby where a legendary jockey on the mend, Earl Sande, and a surprise rainstorm created just the right conditions for Flying Ebony to charge ahead the muddy track winning by one-and-a-half lengths. It was the first time the Derby had been nationally broadcasted on radio. Over 6 million people tuned in to hear the 60-1 odds longshot Flying Ebony defy all probability at the 51st running. In the words of Lucian Mosley himself, "How, 'bout that for a little country boy from Christian County!"

Comments were made by Wendell Lynch, William Turner, Taylor Hayes, Will Myers, Cody Noffsinger, John Atkins, John Bruce, Chris Gilkey, and Jim Coursey.

Presenters for the April 2022 meeting will be Edward Higgins and John Bruce.

Respectfully submitted,

Cody Noffsinger, Secretary/Treasurer

MINUTES of the ATHENAEUM SOCIETY May 5, 2022 – Open Meeting

Secretary/Treasurer Cody Noffsinger convened the May 5th 2022 Open Meeting of the Athenaeum Society. The meeting was held at Oakland Manor. Dinner was provided by Four Seasons Catering.

Roll was not called, but 60 members and guests were present. As custom during Open Meeting financial report was not made, the April 2022 meeting Minutes were not read or approved, nor excuses for previous absences were given.

Members introduced their guests as custom during Open Meetings.

Papers were presented by Marvin Denison and Robert Martin

Due to the fact this would be his 17th presentation to this society, Denison concluded that nothing that is worth hearing is not worth hearing again. Therefore, his paper titled "...What? This Again?" consisted of a reprise of Richard Lederer's history of the world reconstructed through student papers, which he originally presented thirty years before in May of 1992. For decades Lederer has lectured and written about the intricacies and confusions of the English language. During this period Marvin has promoted the study of history and as you can imagine he has gathered much material which comingles history with the confusions of the English language. This material was the basis for an entertaining humorous travel through the ages of time. One liners, such as "Solomon, one of David's sons, had 500 wives and 500 porcupines," "Socrates was a famous Greek teacher who went round giving people advice, they killed him," and "Lincoln signed the Emasculation Proclamation" garnered much laughter from the crowd. Denison's paper proved that the classics are considered classic for a reason. I think we can all look forward to the next edition of this paper. Scheduled to be given in May 2052, it will undoubtedly win over the crowd again. We can only imagine what history or rather what version of history we will hear about at that future Open Meeting.

Whereas our first paper would be considered a comedy, during our second presentation the room would take on a more eerie feeling. In Martin's "The Dark

Side of South Main" he explored the more scandalous stories of Hopkinsville's South Main Street and pondered the secrets of past residents of the neighborhood, wondering if their ghosts indeed watch over the street's inhabitants today. He started by retelling the story of Mrs. Ermine Tandy who in January of 1883 hung herself from an apple tree outside her home located at 1702 South Main Street. This tragic story took a turn for the better before reverting right back to a heartbreaking end. Mrs. Tandy's second son, Clark, was sent to live with her family in Lexington. He went on to become the first Rhodes Scholar from Kentucky, ultimately accepting a faculty position at Princeton University, but just shortly before taking his own life. Martin spoke of another suicide that took place up the street at 2015 South Main Street. This is currently the residence of Jack and Ruth Elliot, where they have encountered some unexplained paranormal activity over the years. This unnerving theme continued through the rest of Martin's paper ending with the story of Julia Thomas' murder that took place on May 28, 1978 at 1820 South Main. It makes you wonder how one street could contain so many chilling tales, and if the ghosts of these characters are observing the street today. If so, what dark secrets will eventually be revealed, as that is the reoccurring theme of Hopkinsville's South Main Street.

Comments were made by Terry Fuqua, John Bruce, Nick Burnette, Taylor Hayes, Wayne Goolsby, and William Turner.

Secretary Noffsinger announced the "Hal King Twinkie Award" for perfect attendance to the following Athenaeum Society members: Happy Higgins, Bob Cope, Paul Fourshee, John Bruce, and Tom Glover.

Presenters for the September 2022 open meeting will be Taylor Hayes and Jerry Gilliam.

Respectfully submitted,

Cody Noffsinger, Secretary/Treasurer

Minutes of the Athenaeum Society September 1, 2022

President Whitney Westerfield convened the September 1st, 2022, meeting of the Athenaeum Society at the Carnegie Library in downtown Hopkinsville.

Roll was called, and twenty members were present. The financial report was given with a balance of \$2,642,25. After the minutes were read, both the financial report and minutes were approved.

Excuses for previous absences were given by several member, but the new Secretary failed to make note of these members. He will try to do better at the next meeting.

President Westerfield notified the society of Bob Ison's resignation. He named a nominating committee consisting of Lindsey Adams, Taylor Hayes, and Dan Stahl. Members are to turn in their nominations to the committee and they will come back with their recommendation at the October meeting.

Dr. Terry Fuqua made a motion that the society apply for a credit card through Planters Bank. Lindsey Adams seconded the motion. After discussion, the motion was passed by the Society.

Papers were presented by Taylor Hayes and Jerry Gilliam.

In his mouth watering paper, titled *Where the rare citrus grows*, Hayes recalled his time of writing a monthly food column for the Kentucky New Era. His column titled *Tales of the Weekend Kitchen Warrior*, defined his times in the kitchen as being bold, fearless and undeterred in what can be accomplished when heat is applied to food, regardless of the source of heat or ingredients involved. One article that Hayes wrote expanded on the attributes of lemons. Lemons leave a sour note on its own but when used as an ingredient, an added garnishment, it makes a profound tasty statement on our taste buds. Hayes informed us of an orchard in France featuring over 1100 citrus varieties grown in an area of 32 acres with cultivations from over 50 countries. The different varieties grown include over 300 of the Mandarin orange alone. Hayes introduced the society to some of the rarest varieties grown at the orchard. This orchard is not open to the public, nor does it

compete with commercial growers. The grove was founded and funded by the French government with its existence being strictly for purposes of research. After giving a detailed history of different citruses, if any member was inclined to make a dish featuring their favorite citrus, Hayes handed out the Hayes family favorite recipes where citrus plays a role in making the dish better and brighter.

In his paper titled Christian County Agricultural Impact on Global Agriculture, Gilliam stated that agriculture has always been the life blood of Christian County's economy. Gilliam's purpose of his paper was to examine the impact Christian County has had on agriculture worldwide, it's contribution to the world stage, and the overall positive value it brings to producing the world's food. Gilliam gave the members a history of both the Agricultural Revolution and the Industrial Revolution. Farm machinery was developed that made farming more efficient while increasing the crop yield. Science quickly became more important than mechanical innovation in agriculture. The Morrill Land Grant College Act of 1862 allocated public land to each state for the establishment of agricultural and industrial colleges. These were to serve both as educational institutions and as centers for research in scientific farming. By the 20th century, agriculture had grown significantly. However, by the 1930s with an abundant amount of food and a large portion of the mid-west being plowed for production agriculture, devastation hit. As a result of the new innovations and the increased amount of land being farmed, drought hit the west creating the infamous dust bowl. Although the Dust Bowl was over with by the 1960s, the thought of future droughts and the possibility of other dust bowls along with the concern of soil erosion from water and wind allowed for innovation in improved ag practices. In 1962, two brothers from Christian County, Harry and Lawrence Young were among the first farmers to use mechanized, no till farming techniques. They developed a planter capable of planting crops in undisturbed soil. This allowed for reduced erosion that is contributed from water and wind. In the early 80's Howard Martin of Todd County developed a planter row cleaner that when used would push the residue left from the previous crop to the side. This allowed for a better seed bed and placement. Today most all no till operations uses this invention. These innovations in agriculture are a main reason our area is recognized nationally as one of the agricultural meccas of America.

Comments were made from Happy Higgins, Robert Harper, Terry Fuqua, Dan Stahls, and Nick Burnette.

Presenter for the October 2022 meeting will be John Soyars and Nich Burnette.

Respectfully submitted,

Minutes of the Athenaeum Society October 6, 2022

In the absence of President Whitney Westerfield, Secretary/Treasurer Robert Martin convened the October 6th, 2022, meeting of the Athenaeum Society at the Carnegie Library in downtown Hopkinsville.

Roll was called, and twenty-five members were present. The financial report was given with a balance of \$2,174.00. After the minutes were read, both the financial report and minutes were approved. Also, a motion was made by Happy Higgins and seconded by James Adams to allow Treasurer Robert Martin to be added as a signer to the checking account at Planters Bank. The motion passed unanimously.

Excuses for previous meetings were given by James Adams, Marvin Denison, Cody Noffsinger, Cory Pitts. Jamus Redd, Tom Glover, and Brett Pritchett. Lindsay Adams also gave an excuse for missing the Nominating Committee meeting that was held prior to the regular meeting. The nominating committee will present their recommendation for a new member at the November meeting.

Paul Fourshee donated two ugly ties to the society to be worn by those members attending the meeting without a tie. Brett Pritchett and Tom Glover were the first recipients of an ugly tie.

Papers were presented by John Soyars and Nick Burnette.

Soyars' paper titled *The Redoubtable Dauntless*, took us to a Word War II battle where Navy Pilot Norman "Dusty' Kleiss, along with thirty-one additional pilots, were part of a scouting squadron to search and attack the four carriers of the Japanese fleet approaching the Pacific Island of Midway. Against all odds, Kleiss and his fellow pilots were able to take out all four carriers. Many factors contributed to the victory. From code-breaking, split-second decisions by the commanders, to good old-fashioned luck. But the plane that Dusty Kleiss was piloting, the only one to deliver significant strikes against the Japanese that day was the SBD-Dauntless Drive Bomber. SBD stands for Scout Bomber Douglas. Douglas refers to the Douglas Aircraft Company. Soyars then gave us a detailed history of Douglas Aircraft Company and the aircrafts

that were the predecessor to the Dauntless. As important as the Dauntless was in the 1942 Battle of Midway, by 1944 it was being replaced by faster fighter bombers like the F6F Hellcat and the F4U Corsair. But the Dauntless was the right plane at the right time. Its record in 1942 alone is its testament: sinking or helping to sink six aircraft carries, one battleship, three cruisers, four destroyers, one submarine, and 14 transports. So, when you think of the Battle of Midway, don't just think of the four Japanese carriers destroyed or the immortal names of the US carries there: Yorktown, Hornet, and Enterprise, but think of the plane that helped win the battle. Soyars concluded his paper by talking about his late uncle Tom Smith who went to work for Douglas Aircraft during World War II. His assignment was writing the technical manuals for the Dauntless.

In his paper titled *The Mona Lisa*, Burnette told us that as a young boy he was very scared of copies of the Mona Lisa hanging in houses of relatives and friends. Burnette felt that Mona Lisa's eyes were following him everywhere he would go in the house, even when he had to go to the bathroom. As he grew older, Burnette started studying the history of the most famous portrait in the world. The more he learned, the less fearful he became of the painting to eventually developing an appreciation of Leonardo da Vinci's masterpiece. As soon as da Vinci painted his masterpiece in 1503, rumors started to spread. Some said that the Mona Lisa was Leonardo da Vinci dressed like a woman. Burnette stated that he did not think that was true, that da Vinci painted a woman by the name of Lisa Gherardini, an Italian noblewoman. After da Vinci's death in 1519, the Mona Lisa remained in France, where Leonardo spent the last of his days. It stayed with the family for almost 300 years until it was finally put on display at the Louvre Museum in Paris in 1797. It stayed in the Louvre until 1911 when it was stolen by an Italian worker who spent the night hiding in a cupboard. When everyone went home for the night, the worker slipped the painting out of the frame and took off with it. The theft was caught in 1913 and the reason he gave for stealing the Mona Lisa was that he wanted to bring the painting back home to Italy where it belonged. He ended up being sentenced for one year and 15 days in jail. A few vandals have tried to harm the painting. In 1956 a person threw acid at the painting and another individual threw a rock damaging Mona Lisa's elbow. In 2003 the Louvre Museum underwent a four-year renovation, and the painting was given its own room with a glass ceiling to let in natural light and a shatter proof glass display case which has a controlled temperature of 43 degrees F. Burnette

closes his paper saying that he and Mona Lisa are now the best of friends and when he purchases his home soon that somewhere in the house will be hanging a copy of the Mona Lisa.

Comments were made by Brett Pritchett, Wayne Goolsby, Wendall Lynch, Cody Noffsinger, and Robert Martin.

Presenters for the November 2022 meeting will be Tom Glover and Jamus Redd.

Respectfully submitted,

Minutes of the Athenaeum Society November 3, 2022

President Whitney Westerfield convened the November 3rd, 2022, meeting of the Athenaeum Society at the Carnegie Library in downtown Hopkinsville.

Roll was called, and twenty-six members were present. The financial report was given with a balance of \$3,984.80. After the minutes were read, both the financial report and minutes were approved. A motion was made and seconded to delay enforcement of bylaws until the 2023/2024 year requiring the Secretary to send out letters to members that have missed three meetings. Motion passed unanimously.

Excuses for previous meetings were given by Chris Gilkey, William Turner, Jim Coursey, James Bruce, Russ Guffey, Hollis White, and Whitney Westerfield. The nominating committee has not met yet but will present their recommendation for a new member at the December meeting. All members present were wearing a tie, so no ugly ties were handed out.

Papers were presented by Tom Glover and Jamus Redd.

Glover's paper, *The Native American Experience in the Wilderness of American Law, Who Exactly Are the Savages Here?*, explored the treatments of the Native Americans of North America under English and American law for the 400-year period from 1607 until the last U.S. Supreme Court term ending on June 30, 2022. Glover first looked at English law which was in effect from 1607-1788. The English, like other European nations operating in the Americas, relied upon the Doctrine of Discovery issued by the Vatican in the late 15th century. This doctrine treated these lands as open for occupation by European powers without regard to the Indian inhabitants. The land was taken by the English through two methods. First the English would attempt to purchase the land through an exchange and, if this failed, conquest was the last resort. With the defeat of the British in the American Revolution, the new American government inherited the British legal traditions that were applied to the Native Americans. The power to regulate the Indians is located in Article 1, Section 8, known at the Commerce Clause in the US Constitution. It includes regulation of commerce with the Indian Tribes. This is the source of Congressional power to pass laws regarding Native Americans. The most significant law passed by Congress from the period of

1782-1871 was the Indian Removal Act of 1830 which resulted in the Trial of Tears. From 1871 onward, the emphasis was on the creation of a federal reservations system, confinement of Native Americans on the reservations, and a forced assimilation into white culture. Glover ended his paper with a discussion of a 2022 Supreme Court ruling which found that for 233 years the states had concurrent jurisdictions with the federal government over crimes on Indian lands, but apparently no one realized it. We will have to await other opinions to see if the Court has, in fact, turned 233 years of legal history on its head.

In his paper titled Peter Cartwright, The Kentucky Boy, Redd discuss the life of Peter Cartwright, a pioneer preacher to the Pennyrile and an influential political opponent of Abraham Lincoln for over twenty years. At the age of five, Cartwright's family traveled with 200 other families through the Wilderness Gap to Kentucky. The family initially settled in Lincoln County. In the fall of 1793, the family moved to Logan County near the present town of Adairsville. Shortly after moving to Logan County the family was visited by Jacob Lurton, a traveling preacher of the Methodist Church. Cartwright was nine years old and was given the task to go out and invite the neighbors to come out and hear preaching. They came in droves and heard Luton preach with tremendous power and the congregation was almost all melted to tears with some crying for mercy and Cartwright's mother shouted aloud for joy. Despite his pious mother, young Peter described himself as a naturally wild and wicked boy who would delight in horseracing, card-playing, and dancing. One night after much dancing and a bit of horse riding, Cartwright began to experience a violent revulsion toward himself. All of a sudden, his blood rushed to his head and his heart palpitated. In a few minutes he turned blind, an awful impression rested on his mind that death had come, and he was unprepared to die. He fell on his knees and asked God to have mercy on him. Redd goes on and describe how Cartwright became a traveling Methodist preacher and establish a new circuit, although he was just 17 years of age. Over the course of his life, he averaged over a sermon a day and baptized over 10,000 people. When Cartwright reached a town named Hopkinsville, he described it as a new and dreadfully wicked place for which he desired to bring about reformation by making it his home. Cartwright's preaching did not just center on individual salvation. He had no hesitation in speaking out against the social problems of the day, and at the time he was in the minority of those in the establishment in southern Kentucky as to his uncompromising hatred of slavery. He despised slavery so much that in 1824 he moved to Illinois

to get clear of slavery's evil and so his children would not marry into slave owning families. While in Illinois he ran twice for political office against Abraham Lincoln, winning one and losing one. However, by the start of the Civil War, Cartwright and Lincoln had buried the hatchet. Cartwright died in 1872 at the age of 87. He was a man whose life stretched from the end of the Revolutionary War to the end to the Civil War, and his legacy remains to this day.

Comments were made by Marvin Denison, Dr. Fugua, Brett Pritchett, Robert Martin, and Robert Harper,

Presenters for the December 2022 meeting will be Bob Cope and Cody Noffsinger.

Respectfully submitted,

Minutes of the Athenaeum Society December 1, 2022

Vice-President John Soyars convened the December 1st, 2022, meeting of the Athenaeum Society at the Carnegie Library in downtown Hopkinsville.

Roll was called, and thirty-three members were present. The financial report was given with a balance of \$3,546.40. After the minutes were read, both the financial report and minutes were approved.

Excuses for previous meetings were given by Lindsey Adams, Dr. Mitchel Kaye, Jim Adams, Jason Powell, George Engler, Chris Jung, and Jerry Gilliam. In the spirit of the Holiday Season, Vice-President Soyars did not impose an ugly tie to anyone, but it will return in January.

Papers were presented by Bob Cope and Cody Noffsinger.

Cope opened his paper by taking us back to the 1967 classic, *The Graduate*. A young man named Ben, played by Dustin Hoffman, had just finished college, and was offered career advice by one of his father's friends. The famous quote is "I want to say one word to you, just one word. Plastics. Think about it. There is a great future in plastics. Will you think about it?" Cope's paper titled, Death by Plastic, states that plastic built the modern world. Where would we be without bike helmets, baggies, toothbrushes, and pacemakers? But a century into our love affair with plastic, we're starting to realize it's not such a healthy relationship. Plastics draw on dwindling fossil fuels, leach harmful chemicals, litter landscapes, and destroy marine life. The book, *Plastics*, A Toxic Love Story, states that we're nearing a crisis point. We've produced as much plastic in the past decade as we did in the entire twentieth century. We're drowning in the stuff, and we need to start making some hard choices. Cope's paper goes into detail on the history of plastics and the problems that it has caused our environment. Cope ends his paper with the following: Today, for better and for worse, we are firmly in the plastics age and facing the frightening possibility of an ecological collapse. We have at hand the materials to help avert it, tools with which to create a legacy of sustainability. Will archaeologists millennia from now scrape down to the stra.trum of our time and find it simply stuffed with immortal throwaways like bottle caps, bags, wrappers, straws, and lighters – evidence of a civilization that choked itself to death on trash, or will they

come upon bridges like the one in Wharton State Forest in New Jersey, bridges that, despite their lack of beauty, (made entirely from recycled plastics), have an important story to tell: that we were a people with the ingenuity to make wondrous materials and the wisdom to use them well.

Noffsinger's paper entitled Hades, the Crossroads, and the King of the Mississippi Delta Blues, starts off with a discussion of the Tony Winning play, Hadestown, a modern version of the Greek tragedy surrounding the love of Orpheus and Eurydice (yr.ri.duh.see) and their struggles with Hades. The play does so with a mesmerizing set resembling a Deep South Depression Era jazz club and a score that brings together all the soul snatching sounds of blues, gospel, jazz, and musical genres. The ability for this show to tie these qualities together is truly a triumph of musical theatre, creating an am.b.iance that transports the audience into a mythical world foreign to our minds, but not very different from our own experiences. After seeing the play, Noffsinger was left with the question, what would someone do for power? If you're willing to sell your soul, it will shape you, it will hang over you, it will control you because we all know the devil gets his due. Thus was born the subject of Noffsinger's paper, blues artist Robert Johnson. Noffsinger admitted that it was difficult to do research on Johnson as there only exist three photos of the blues artist along with only twenty-nine studio recordings recorded between two sessions in 1936 and 1937. Noffsinger concluded that Robert Johnson's influential, but tragic story is rooted in fact, halftruths, and sometimes downright mythological retellings. Robert Leroy Johnson was most likely born on May 8, 1911, in Hazlehurst, MS. Johnson spent his childhood in Memphis where he fell in love with the vibrant music scene there which inspired him to want to become a traveling blues man. For a few years, Johnson struggled traveling around the Delta trying to pick up gigs and learn his craft. The truth is, Johnson was not a talented musician. Legendary blues artist Son House recounted that he was one of the most awful guitar players he had ever encountered. Johnson would quickly disappear from the circuit, and this is when things get very interesting. After a year's absence, Johnson came back and was given a shot on the stage. Johnson was picking sounds on his guitar that no one had ever heard before. He had been gone for a year, but now was playing with the technique and confidence of the greatest blues player of all time? It would be impossible to become that talented, so fast, unless something nefarious (nuh.feh.ree.uhs) was afoot. To the people hearing him that night, it meant only one thing, Johnson must have gone to the crossroads. As legend had it, at the crossroads Johnson met the devil himself, disguised as a large black man.

Johnson handed him his guitar. The devil tuned it and played a few tunes, handing the guitar back to Johnson. With a few strums of the guitar, Johnson realized that he now encompassed the talent to be the greatest blues musician of all time. However, it was to come for a price, his soul. The rest of the paper is about Johnson's storied but short career. Johnson died on August 16, 1938 at the age of 27. It is believed he died of being poisoned by the husband of a woman Johnson had gotten a little too friendly with. After a two-day fight, Hades got his due as the blues man passed away in agony. There are three sites in Mississippi where they claimed he is buried, but due to poverty and lack of transportation, Robert Johnson, the King of the Delta Blues, was most likely buried in a pauper grave close to where he died.

Comments were made by Dan Stahl, Chris Jung, Dr. Kaye, Lindsey Adams, Jason Powell, Will Myers, William Turner, and Russ Guffey.

Presenters for the January 2023 meeting will be Lindsey Adams and Will Myers.

Respectfully submitted,