

## **Goshen History Meeting**

### **July 30, 2024**

The third meeting of 2024 was held at the Goshen United Methodist Church. Russell Gayer started the meeting just after 6:00 pm with 19 participants: Russell Gayer, James W. Tisdale, Butch Pond, Russell Stroud, Dallas Hale, Charles Langham, Terri and Glenn Wilson, Linda and Max Moore, Martha Hogan Estes, Al Nugent, JB Hogan, Trisha Beland, Jesse Gagnon, Helen Logue, Dori Seddon, Ralph Rathburn and Bernadette Boyle.

Russell Gayer stated the earliest identified marker in the Goshen Cemetery is Thomas R. Neill, who died in August 1861.

Jesse Gagnon shared the story of discovering the original millstone at the Richland Creek. This stone was used at the Goshen Milling Company established in 1882. A full article was written by Brian Sorensen and posted on the Friends of Goshen Facebook page, December 27, 2023. It was also published in the Arkansas Times May 27, 2024 <https://arktimes.com/arkansas-blog/2024/05/27/discovery-of-goshen-millstone-connects-past-to-present-for-arkansas-brewer>.

Several talked about finding arrowheads along Richland Creek and Tuttle while some thought arrowhead should remain in their final resting place. The Migration of the Trail of Tears was brought up. JB Hogan has done extensive research on this subject as said there were two routes, one went North up through Missouri and the second one went through northern Arkansas in 1839. One Cherokee was killed on the Square in Fayetteville when the John Benge contingent camped southwest of town. JB Hogan is seeking approval from the Fayetteville City Council for a sign to be erected marking the importance of this burial location.

Butch Pond talked about his many years in farming and coming across old wagon roads. He said, "That's what makes raking hay enjoyable is discovering an old rock road."

Ralph Rathburn said he was born in Goshen during the time his father was a pastor at the Goshen Nazarene Church. As a boy he would walk the logging road to Benson Mountain and on down to Fire Tower to Goshen. Ralph added that down Ledford Road, across the bridge, but before you get to the Pitt's Farm, there was a spring that provided water for the largest still in this area.

According to Dallas Hale, the whiskey operation sat right on the Washington/Madison County line. "If the whiskey makers heard horse hoofbeats coming from the Madison County side, they would move their operation just over the county line, and vice versa if the hoofbeats could be heard coming from the other direction." Dallas passed around a photo taken around 1920 of a large barn where the distillery operated. Dallas believes one of the men in the photo was his granddad, Dewitt Clinton Hale and another man dressed in black was the Round Mountain Baptist Preacher, whose last name may have been Smith.

Charles Langham talked about the wagon road up to Benson Mountain. Charles said there was a ravine on south of the old Langham Road where a spring comes out of a hole about the size of a soccer ball. There's an old basin in the spring that Charles believes was made by Indians. He's also found an Indian bead in the same area.

Helen Logue lives in one of the older homes in Goshen which was originally owned by the Tisdales or Clarks. Over the years, Helen has uncovered a lot of old horseshoes. Russell Gayer commented that the Tisdale house, in front of Helen's place, was originally The Sweeney Hotel. During that time period, all hotels had a livery stable for horses. Teri Wilson, who lives in the old hotel, also reported finding an abundance of horseshoes & horseshoe nails on the property.

Russell Gayer introduced a special guest at tonight's meeting, James W. Tisdale. James brought numerous photos, some dating back to the 1800's, in amazing condition. Several photos were of James Knox Polk Tisdale from Indiana and his wife Mary Ann Thompson Tisdale. This couple produced 8 sons and 4 daughters. Over 25 members of the Tisdale family are buried in the Goshen Cemetery.

James also had several photos of the Anderson Byrd family. Mr. Byrd was born in 1832 and died in 1905. One of the photos featured the family at the Goshen Spring. From the look of the surround area, there was speculation that this is the same spring as the one in Mill Branch Park.

The next Goshen History meeting will be October 29, 2024 6:00 PM at Goshen United Methodist Church.

Bernadette Boyle, Secretary