**Goshen History Meeting**

**October 29, 2024**

The final meeting of 2024 was held at the Goshen United Methodist Church. Russell Gayer started the meeting just after 6:24 pm with 11 participants: Russell Gayer, Max Poye, Linda Rogers, Jacci Perry-Ryan, Duane Wilson, Trisha Beland, Ralph Rathburn, Jana Vanderburg, Dallas Hale, Betsy McCoy and Bernadette Boyle.

Russell Gayer announced a Veteran’s Day Potluck will be held on Monday, November 11, 2024 at 5:30 PM at the Goshen Community Building. A presentation will be given by Russell Gayer and Russell Stroud on Goshen: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow. Russell talked about the Methodist Church and how it survived for 170 years with the number of families attending fluctuated over time. During good times, Goshen had numerous stores and up to three doctors in town.

Dallas Hale brought in a couple of older photographs asking if the couple pictured could be Ray Swope and his wife. Dallas also brought two items for show-n-tell. One was a wrecking bar used to twist and/or remove 2x4’s, the other was a tiny piano tuning wrench.

Ralph Rathburn talked about Goob Keeney and a Mr. Bell, who would drive into town mid-morning and return later that day after drinking heavily. Ralph remembers watching their vehicle swerve as they drove down Ledford Road.

Duane Wilson brought in a ledger from 1917 – 1921 that belonged to his grandfather, William Lafayette Wilson. The ledger contained all the expenses of running the farm and even showed eggs were sold at the Habberton Store. The book is in excellent condition and lists sales on the left pages and expenses on the right. Duane hopes to have the contents digitized for future generations to view and enjoy. Duane said the Wilson Family bought 500 acres of land in Habberton, Wesley and Huntsville. William Layfette Wilson had 5 sons: Leo, Knox, Clive, Ernest and Noid. At the age of 65 years old, Clive married the widow, Cleta Stroud, grandmother of present-day Goshen mayor, Russell Stroud.

Duane also spoke about another Habberton resident, William Chesley “Ches” Stobaugh (b. March 13, 1906, d. February 27, 1973), a WW II veteran who is buried in National Cemetery at Fayetteville. Mr. Stobaugh had a reputation of being a heavy drinker and was often considered the “Otis Campbell” of the area. Duane attributed Mr. Stobaugh’s alcoholism to the horrors of war that he experienced while fighting under Gen. Patton.

 Russell Gayer added that a dozen Confederate veterans that fought at Prairie Grove are buried at the Goshen Methodist Cemetery. Some of their descendants still live in the area, including Betsy Morris McCoy.

Bernadette Boyle invited everyone to attend the Goshen Extension Homemakers Club 80th Anniversary Celebration on February 22, 2025 from 2 – 4 PM at the Goshen Community Building.

Trisha Beland invited everyone to the Son’s Chapel Craft Fair, November 10-11, 2024. Ralph asked about the history of Son’s Chapel since Trisha is the historian. She said the Son Family settled at the site of the Son’s Chapel Cemetery. As family members passed away the Son Family started their own cemetery. The family also started a school. As that area grew, a larger church, school and workroom was needed. The woman had pie suppers and made quilts to raise the money for a new, larger building and in 1939, it was completed. Today, Son’s Chapel can be rented out for weddings and funerals. Women still gather in the basement and hand quilt baby quilts to sell for the upkeep of Son’s Chapel.

Russell Gayer commented that back in the day, all mountains and hills had names like Cannon Holler, George Neill mountain, Walker Bluff, etc. Dallas talked about an Indian Cave or Indian Chief Cave down by Bill Tisdale’s. Duane said there was a Devil’s Backbone Cave over on the Harry Jackson place.

Ralph Rathburn brought his baby book that was given to his mom by Mrs. Pauline Clark. Some of the first visitors to come to see baby Ralph were: Mrs. Thelma Guinn, Nina Ruth, Mrs. Mildred Hale, Mrs. Bookout, Mrs. Langham, Mrs. Wilma Guinn and Mrs. Langley. Bernadette commented that she recognized many of those names as the original members of the Goshen Home Demonstration Club.

Ralph introduced his daughter Jana Vanderburg who just relocated back to Goshen from Texas. Jana has an interest in WWII period clothing and will be giving a demonstration on Women on the Home Front during the 1930 – 1940’s at Drake Field.

Jacci Perry-Ryan talked about how she loved playing softball at the Goshen field and right next door she kept her horses. Jacci rode the school bus that stopped at Omar Guinn’s store.

Jacci is a descendant of Thomas Cannon, a Civil War soldier and one of the owners of the Goshen Milling Company, founded in 1882. She has several old letters and postcards from the 1880s and 90s written by Cannon family members. The Cannons had moved from Goshen to Mayfield and on to Sonora. Russell suggested that Jacci might enjoy the book: *When Fayetteville Moved on Four Hoofs* by Denele Campbell. At the July 30, 2024 meeting, Russell Gayer had talked about Helen Logue’s property being a livery stable. How over the years, Helen had uncovered a lot of old horseshoes. 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.

Another new attendee, Linda Langham Rogers, shared that her family settled in the Goshen and Elkins areas around the 1860’s. Linda’s great aunt was the well-known Nina Ruth Langham. Nina Ruth was sister to Alma Conkel. Linda also brought a photo of the Wayne Cate family. Her mother, Francis, is the older daughter in the photo and married a Langham.

Max Poye was the last to talk and said that he moved to Goshen in 1982 and bought land from Freda Morris on Benson Mountain. Max said he was involved with the city and Goshen Volunteer Fire Department. Max said that he has photos of the Goshen Extension Homemakers and even has a large metal bucket that was used as an instrument in the Goshen Kitchen Band. Bernadette asked if Goshen EHC could borrow the photos and bucket for their 80th Anniversary Celebration.

The next Goshen History meeting will be held on the last Tuesday of January 2025.

Bernadette Boyle, Secretary