**MINUTES**

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 18, 2024

The Sparta Hancock County Historical Society met at the Fellowship Hall of Pierce Memorial Methodist Church. Seventeen members and guests were present

**President Rick Joslyn welcomed those present.**

**MINUTES**

TREASURER’S REPORT: General Funds Account $1545.53

Restoration Fund Acct. $3621.70

**OLD BUSINESS**: Our Cemetery Tour last Veteran’s Day weekend netted about $200 in tickets sold.

Membership voted to add a day time walk as well for those who do not feel comfortable walking on uneven ground in the dark. We all think this will get more attendance.

Court Minute Books for Hancock County : We sold 4 sets at the meeting.

**NEW BUSINESS**:

Elections: Nominations were taken from the floor. Jeffrey Waddell made a motion to keep the current officers. Membership voted to leave slate as is. We still have no Secretary, so anyone who would like to volunteer for that is encouraged to contact us.

Watson Brown Jr. Board grant application was presented. No one had a project to pursue for us to apply. Mauriel will contact them to see if they would include replacing the sign for Mt. Zion Church.

**2024 Projects:**

We will host a Book signing by Larry Krumenaker on June 29. Mr. Krumenaker has written a book on Lafayette’s stops in Alabama and has one published on the same for Georgia. He contacted us about speaking to our group. Karen West volunteered to find a larger venue for this meeting so the general public is encouraged to attend.

**Cemetery Tour** —We will announce the date for this later. We tentatively discussed doing the tour the first weekend of October (5th & 6th). A Committee was appointed with Jan Garland, Debbie Butts, Rick and Mauriel Joslyn and Travis Chandler.

**Christmas Tour of Homes** — Date chosen was either Nov. 30th or Dec. 7. We need to appoint a committee to work with the Chamber of Commerce to advertise this and get larger attendance to our town.

**2025 Lafayette Celebration**. This will be a national event and we will be on a national tour stop. The date will be Wednesday March 25, 2024. It was suggested for a local event to have a cemetery tour of our Revolutionary War soldiers.

**Program**: Rick displayed a Quilt that was donated to the Society, and explained how he researched the names on it. The quilt was made by citizens in Murray County and it was suggested to contact them and see if they want it as it has more connection there than here.

The new owners of the Gaissert House suggested we do something to showcase Sparta History on FB or some other way. Karen West volunteered to post items. She also suggested we have meetings at different places around the county and even at private homes. Everyone thought that would be a great idea, so going forward our meeting places will be varied.

Peggy brought Methodist Church membership records to donate for all the now closed churches from Hancock County, including Mt. Zion, Mt. Hope, Antioch and several more. We decided to donate these to the Pierce Memorial Historical Room.

**NEXT MEETING DATE: May 19, 2024 at 3 pm. We will meet in the Pierce Memorial Historical Room to view some of the history deposited there.**

**Adjourn:** Meeting adjourned at 4:10.