**SPARTA HANCOCK COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY MINUTES**

**SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 17, 2023**

The Sparta Hancock County Historical Society met at Pierce Memorial Methodist Church to plan upcoming events.

**TREASURER’S REPORT:** Dues for 2024 are now being accepted. Cost is $15 per person for a year. We are in good shape with our finances.

**OLD BUSINESS:** We have two weddings upcoming for next year at Mt. Zion. We will set a clean up date closest to time to inspect the church. We continue to receive items from former families of Hancock County for our collection. The latest are a collection of photographs and letters from the Ferguson family, dating from the late 19th - early 20th century. This family occupied the Bird-Campbell House on Broad St.

Our Walking Tour is completely implemented with the help of the REACH program. Now we have a kiosk at the Courthouse where visitors can pick up a brochure. The tour is also available as a phone app. Sidewalks have a Spartan Warrior to mark the route.

Graves barn still needs mowing. We need to find someone with a heavy duty tractor or mower to do it in summer.

**NEW BUSINESS:** We discussed the upcoming Cemetery history walk. Dates will be Saturday Nov. 4th and Saturday Nov. 11th, Veterans Day weekend. We hope this will bring some visitors to learn about our veterans of every American War who are buried there. We will feature stories of men who were soldiers in the Revolutionary War, Civil War, World War I and World War II. We will also include a couple of last years characters as well. Times will be starting at 5:30 each Saturday.

CEMETERY COMMITTEE PLANNERS ARE:

 Rick and Mauriel Joslyn

 Jeffrey Waddell

 Jan Garland

 Debbie Butts

Mauriel will get flashlights for visitors to carry.

The 2025 Lafayette tour of his visit in 1825 will include Sparta on the National route for those towns commemorating this event. We will expand on what we did in 2018 to celebrate. This time we will be part of a national celebration. More details to follow.

We will be installing a marker to designate Sparta as a stop.

A Tour of Homes at Christmas will be a 2024 event, to be decided later. Many people enjoyed our churches tour which was the last one we did in 2019.

The Society now also has for sale sets of the Court Minutes for Hancock County covering the years from 1796-1863. These are available for $40 for a set of 4 hardback books. We sold 6 sets at the meeting. See our Facebook Page or email us. We hope to have a flyer to post soon for orders.

We adjourned at 3 pm.