

Historical Society Summer Meeting Minutes

The summer quarter meeting of the Hancock Historical Society was held Sunday, July 28, 2013, in Joseph Hancock, Jr. Park. Those in attendance were: Sam Judge, Ron & Carol Barkdoll, Joe Walters, Bill Minnick, Don Swope, Brady Golden, Luke & Marilyn Bowers, Don & Jeanie Corbett, Lisa Corbett, Terry & Amanda Gooden, Phillip Corbett, Rachel Corbett, Hannah Corbett, Kathy Leshner, Carlton Reiff, Jimmy & Tracey Barnhart, Dan & Debbie Murphy, Tim Long, Charlie & Emily Hollis, Bob Hollie, Ron & Steve Van Meter, Mac Elson, Steve French, Marian Golden, Teresa Van Der Bois, Anna & Michael Bynum, Sinclair Hamilton, Phil Edson, Sally Brickman.

The meeting was conducted by President, Dan Murphy, a short business meeting preceded our lecture with an update on ongoing activities at our two Museums- the Main Museum at Town Hall and our Main Street, Museum & Visitors Center. Dr. Murphy reminded board members of our next Board of Directors meeting on August 15th @ 6:30.

President Emeritus Don Corbett has completed his long awaited history of the orchard industry around Hancock, the book is now available at the Museum's for \$21.15 (includes tax). (Secretary's Nate- you may also call Marian Golden at 301-678-6308 to make arrangements for pick up). Don will be our next speaker at the fall quarter meeting of October 27, 2013 @ 2:00 pm at Town Hall.

President Murphy noted that "Woodmont" will have their open house on Saturday, September 14th.

The Holiday house tour done bi-yearly by our group is now in the planning stages.

The business meeting was adjourned and our speaker and our speaker was Dr. Dan Murphy whose presentation was entitled "Cannons & Horses; The Nightmare that was Civil War History".

Dan brought in his ½ scale "Napoleon" cannon for a demonstration of the effect those guns made. This gun made 1-/10 th the noise of a full size weapon. Dan, along with his crew of Bob Hollis, Steve Van Meter, Mac Elson, Joe Walters, fired the cannon using the procedures & order of charging the gun, cleaning (cooling) the bore and administering the charge that would have been done during a battle situation.

A history of the development of artillery, starting with Henry Knox, who was credited with the early development of equipment & tactics during the American Revolution and its improvements during the Mexican War were traced.

The important role of horses and mules was discussed as was the carnage that befell these animals during battle. There were 120,000 horses at Gettysburg alone. Food supply for his animals was one reason Lee had gone north to the Gettysburg area. The "valley" had been depleted by constant foraging.

Coming back to "Hancock", Dan detailed the guns that were present here in January 1862 around the "brown church" & the "red church" as described in the diary of a civil war soldier. This would be St. Thomas & St. Peters – but we are not sure which was which.