

German Settlement History, Inc.
January 15, 2005 Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order by President Michael Meier

Present were Ronald Meier, Maryalice McHugh, Marilyn Erickson, Tuffy Marheine, Marvin Meier, Karen Johnson, Toni Meier, Luann Lind, Gene Meier, Michael Cullen and Michael Meier. Patricia Mueller was absent and excused.

Visitors were Harold Rhody, Marie Meier, Dawn Meier, LaVonne Meier, Kathy Meier, Karen Baumgartner and Graham Arneson.

Minutes of the September 11, 2004 meeting were corrected by removing "Bob Berg" from suggested persons to interview and adding "Hattie Knop." Also, it was affirmed that the picture mentioned in the minutes was indeed for the Clarence Nelson store in Spirit. Minutes were accepted as corrected.

Treasurer's report was given by Toni Meier and accepted by the board.

A report was made detailing the work on the windows, doors and log repair done by Henry Mast and helper. Terry Johnson transported them and helped them with their work and also removed the old asphalt shingles on the east gable and burned them. Thanks to Terry for all his assistance. Henry will be available in the spring to talk with us concerning any additional work we may need him to do as we finish rodent proofing the building. LaVonne ordered old fashioned locks for the doors, very attractive. These will be put on in the spring.

Ron, Gene and Marvin will work on the one unfinished foundation corner next spring.

A report was made concerning the oral history project. Dawn borrowed a video camera, but the zoom squeaked so she put it on a tripod and filmed Ronald Meier, Albert Meier and Owen Meier seated on a couch talking about things they remember. Those of us who have seen the video think it turned out really well. Kathy Meier gave us a new digital video cam and Andy Meier used it to do one interview of Harold Rhody during the Christmas break. Maryalice agreed to be coordinator of the oral history project. Those who have been interviewed are willing to be interviewed again and the minutes from last meeting list several others. In addition, the suggestion was made that we video people at Memorial Day, the Spirit Fair and other events when people are together and willing to talk. Kathy Meier is willing to help edit the digital work.

Toni, Karen Baumgartner and Michael reported on their experiences at the Annual Local History Convention they attended in Madison. They have received information about care of artifacts and construction of display space.

Luann will work on accessioning process and Toni will help her find information as to what needs to be done. One resource is a computer catalog program that we could purchase to keep track of all the items in our collection.

Item #10 on the agenda dealt with storage of artifacts. Toni and Michael say they will have a dedicated space for GSHI artifacts when they work on their shop this spring putting in a floor, heating, light, etc.

We broke for a good potluck lunch.

At the conclusion of lunch we looked into the subject of Jeanette's books. Kathy Meier showed us three possible binding systems. Luann and her daughter Tami will research these systems further and bring a recommendation to the April meeting. ^{my}

We discussed continued funding. We should be able to sell books for some revenue. If we have a binding system we could also sell other books, such as a Spirit recipe book. Ron and Marvin will also work on some names, labels and descriptions of different funding levels. We should have a donation box with a suggested (\$1.00?) donation for visitors. Ron also hopes to donate some more veneer timber to raise funds through a logging day. Luann will research if we could do a barn dance in their decorated barn as a fund raiser. She will check on what might be a good date for her family.

We discussed membership on the board. We heard the news that Michael Cullen will likely be moving next summer. That would leave a vacancy on the board. There might be others, too. The President appointed Michael Cullen, Marvin Meier and Ronald Meier to look for persons who could be nominated to the board and chosen by the board.

Other Plans for 2005: Kathy Meier will help us work on an information flyer/brochure that we can make available to people. We could also sell picture postcards. Luann takes good pictures. Maryalice and LaVonne suggested a pen/ink drawing of the Yesterday House—note cards could be made and sold. They know a reasonable place that has made notecards for the Methodist church. LaVonne will check with Janet Kring to see if she would do a pen and ink drawing for us as she did for the Methodist church.

We set **Saturday, April 30** for our next meeting. Once again, we will meet from 11:00 to 1:00 with a potluck. We will spend time surveying the condition of the Yesterday House and making specific determinations as to what will need to be done and summer plans.

Kathy Meier brought pictures of family and asked for help in identification.

Karen Baumgartner reported on the St. John Lutheran, Phillips, centennial in 2006 and alerted us to articles from The Bee that report on the Liberty School (from the 1930's.)

The meeting was adjourned shortly after 1:00 p.m. but many people stayed and talked about more ideas for the future and looked at pictures.