

MINUTES OF THE COTTONWOOD HEIGHTS HISTORICAL COMMITTEE HELD APRIL 13, 2011, AT
6:00 P.M. IN THE CITY COUNCIL BOARDROOM

MEMBERS PRESENT: Kevin Cromar, Chairman, Karen Larrabee, Jonathan Glauser, Gayle Conger,
Pat Menlove, Tom Shimizu, Jerri Harwell, Beverly Lund

EXCUSED MEMBERS: Sylvia Orton, Tee Tyler

OTHERS PRESENT: Dean Smart, Charles Keller, Georgia Anderson, Jean McMullin, Jennie Warner,
Verl (Buck) Buxton, Kyle Buxton

Meeting began at 6:00 P.M. with our Chairman, Kevin Cromar, introducing our guest, Charles Keller. He also introduced members of the Butlerville Days Committee along with Buck and Kyle Buxton, who will be presenting a large part of our booth display on the 25th of July.

Mr. Cromar reported that he and Gayle Conger recently attended a meeting with Mayor Cullimore, City Manager, Liane Stillman, City Attorney, Shane Topham, and Tee Tyler, City Councilman. He will go into more of the details of that meeting in May, but for now he will just mention that Marianna DiPaolo has been released from the committee and Dean Smart will be applying to fill that opening. Mr. Smart volunteered that he is a life-long residence of the City being 77 years old. Buck Buxton and Mr. Smart are first cousins.

Mr. Cromar also advised the committee that Tom Shimizu is Vice Chairman of the Committee and will remain so until his term of office is over. Mr. Cromar was appointed for a three year term and is now filling a second three year term. For the first two years of the second term he will serve as Chair. During the third year he will transition another Chair. That Chair is probably not serving on the committee at the present time.

Mr. Cromar played a two minute DVD of the 80th birthday of Alexander McGhie. It was filmed by Arthur Petersen in 1933. Mr. Cromar would like the video to be played at this year's Butlerville Days. Mr. Petersen would later become the Superintendent of the Jordan School District. Also in the film is Neri Butler, 86 years old, would die three years later. Vere McHenry is 5 years old and is there. He has signed an affidavit that it is, in fact, Neri Butler, thus eliminating any question in the future. Neri Butler married one of Alexander's sisters. In January we focused our efforts on the McGhies' and the Colverts. This is a direct result of that focus. Those instrumental in this search are Gayle Conger, Karen Larrabee, and Kevin Cromar.

Charles Keller, author of "Lady in the Ore Bucket", addressed the committee. He was originally a hiker in the area and his book covers history of Millcreek, Big and Little Cottonwood Canyons. Mr. Keller picked a short subject, Heughes Canyon. The canyon is located right above the Old Mill Golf Course. Originally spelled Hughes, a new spelling, Heughes, showed up in 1908. Nothing much was done in the canyon until the 1900s when William A. Green, who had a farm at the base of the canyon used the water to irrigate his farm. He filed water rights claims for the water from the stream as well as the two springs located there.

In 1902 David and Clara Buck filed mining claims in the Canyon. Later other claims were filed by five men, but these claims were abandoned within a short time, leaving the Bucks sole claim holders.

In 1911 William Green died, leaving his wife to run the farm. Two years later she sold the farm to two men from Salt Lake City who could not develop enough water to take care of the farm. In 1922 they sold the farm to a Herbert S. Auerbach. He had worked in mines as well as being the head of Auerbach's Department Store. He had a summer home on the farm and the things he raised were distributed to the poor and needy. Mr. Auerbach also had trouble proving the need for the necessary water so he drove a tunnel up the canyon and when he reached the Buck mining claims he made an agreement with Buck. The agreement allowed Buck to use the water from the stream for the rights to tunnel under the mining claims. Buck died in 1929 leaving his wife and partner to work the mines. Silver was the main metal from the mines.

Mr. Keller explained that the 80 acre farm was located where the golf course sits. In 1930 Mrs. Buck could no longer handle the assessment work so she hired a Mr. Frank Sorensen, who was Mr. Auerbach's right hand man. When it came time to pay the people, Mrs. Buck could not, Mr. Sorensen filed suit and instructed the Marshall to sell the claims at a public sale. The new owner, of course, was Frank Sorensen. He then filed for a patent on the claims. Five of the six claims received a patent in 1932. Mr. Sorensen had done his job and immediately turned the claims over to Mr. Auerbach. That ended the mining in Heughes Canyon.

Jerri Harwell reported on the progress of the photo cut out of the McGhie family which will be used this year at Butlerville Days. The committee decided that a 4' x 8' size would be better than that of last year's cut out which was too large. She would like to use the more expensive finish because it holds up better in the rain and we know about rain in July because of last year's experience with the cut out.

Karen Larrabee reported on her visit with Fred and Verl Buxton. She said they had many photos to share with her. Sarah McGhie married Charles Colebrook in 1884 and she made a copy of their marriage certificate. She has been working with Dean Smart in collecting information. They have made arrangements to visit Art Milne. Art's father, Mike, owned a gas station on the west side of 1300 East with Gilmer Hilton. Mr. Smart is also collecting photos of the original Smart's Dairy. Smart's Dairy was located in Union, but was annexed by Sandy City.

Mr. Smart is locating photos of the first Whitmore Oxygen Plant as well as the one Ft. Union. Documenting Whitmore Oxygen is one of the items on the committee's to do list. Mrs. Larrabee and Mr. Smart are also working on collecting information from Charles Stubbs. Mr. Stubbs may be willing to donate several paintings to the Historical Committee.

Gayle Conger reported that she had made contact with Matt McGhie, living in Maryland who provided her with the name of a cousin living in Cedar Hills, Utah who can provide additional information on John and Rosella Daw McGhie. John McGhie is in the video that was played at the beginning of the meeting. Mr. McGhie also contacted his mother and she emailed a copy of a photo of the John McGhie family.

Ms. Conger also has been working on the "Covert" line. She has been in touch with a grandson of Hyrum Covert who is living in Nebraska. He sent her a photo of Hyrum and his two sons, Gilbert and Clarence. At home, Ms. Conger has a 1935 photo of a group of women who lived in Danish Town. An uncle had identified everyone in the photo except for one woman. That woman was Mary Covert. He also sent a picture sheet of the Covert children, also a copy of the marriage certificate of Hyrum and Mary Harrop Covert. The certificate lists Butlerville as the residence of both. Mary was the daughter of James and Sara Jane Sharples Harrop who were long time residents of the area, living across the road from the Old Mill. James Harrop confirmed Ms. Conger's mother.

Mr. Cromar told the committee that he is a direct descendant of the Coverts and is so excited about the information that has been gathered. He mentioned that the fellow in Nebraska has an oil painting of Hyrum Covert and has sent us a copy. Hyrum was known as "Rum" in Butlerville. The committee slogan for this year is "A 100 years in a year." That's our goal for 2011.

Pat Menlove reported that Mr. Cromar will make arrangements to scan the information the members of the St. Thomas More Parish have collected. She is working with the owners of Cannon Mortuary. Mr. Cannon's mother was a Staker. Don and Jackie Cannon opened their building to members of the Catholic Church while their own building was being constructed. The mortuary also was a place several area churches used for choir practice. The building was originally built as a home in 1948. She will collect more information from the Cannons.

Jonathan introduced Verl Buxton and his son, Kyle. The three are working on the display for Butlerville Days. The theme this year is "Mining." A discussion was held regarding what would be on display, equipment, photos, etc. What needs to go in the tent? They showed some photos of the early years in Butler including a photo of the Mori family who had a farm across the street from the Smarts on what is now Bengal Boulevard. Kyle Buxton also has many photos of mining in Big Cottonwood Canyon.

Mr. Cromar closed the meeting at 7:30 P.M. He invited those interested in staying to do so and enjoy the photos on display. Our next meeting will be Wednesday, May 11, 2011, 6:00 P.M.