



## Moultrie County Historical & Genealogical Society

NEWSLETTER

April 2017  
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**NEXT Regular Monthly Meeting will be Thursday, 20 April 2017 – 7 pm !!!**

***“Genealogy can be fun, interesting & challenging!”***

*Ever wonder who are your ancestors?*

**Joe Pound will share some unusual stories of his and wife Joan,  
while doing their family history research over the past 40 years.**

**He will explain how they found theirs, with examples, photos and handouts!**

**Heritage Center is open again at 12 noon on Saturdays & Mondays**

**(((Call Kaye at 728-1739 or Pat at 728-2456 for special appointments)))**

**Executive Board meeting was April 4<sup>th</sup>.**

- Janet Roney & Pat Cribbet continue their prep work for our “new hard cover book” on Moultrie County Pictorial History, which we plan to publish next year. Our publisher will be the Donning Company.
- We have begun our fund-raising campaign for this Pictorial History book + our capital campaign focusing on county businesses and banks. We’re asking them to help us underwrite the cost of publishing this Pictorial History book + capital improvements for our buildings.
- According to Carol Howard, we have 174 members paid so far. Invite your friends & family to join us.
- Our deepest sympathy to the family of HGS member Glenn Austin, who passed away recently.
- Luzetta Ferguson is back on her feet after a small stroke. It occurred in her doctor’s office.
- Pat Cribbet reports that about 1500 persons follow HGS activities on our FaceBook page.
- HGS has received a \$1500 grant from the Sullivan Community Education Foundation to digitize 40 rolls of microfilm.
- The Moultrie County Farm Bureau is planning a 2018 plat book, celebrating its centennial. It will feature both 1913 plats and 2018 plats on facing pages. Their last plat book was published in 2015.
- The HGS List of Publications cost list has been updated for those interested in publications.

**Heritage Center – 117 E. Harrison St., Sullivan IL 61951-0588**

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**HOURS OPEN: Noon to 3 pm...Saturday & Monday or by appointment. (over)**

*This month I urge you to read the following statement  
prepared by a group of professional historians...why we should all “value our history.”*

## **THE VALUE OF HISTORY – SEVEN WAYS HISTORY IS ESSENTIAL**

### **TO OUR SELVES**

- **IDENTITY** – History nurtures personal identity in an intercultural world. History enables people to discover their own place in the stories of their families, communities, and nation. They learn the stories of the many individuals and groups that have come before them and shaped the world in which they live. There are stories of freedom and equality, injustice and struggle, loss and achievement, and courage and triumph. Through these varied stories, they create systems of personal values that guide their approach to life and relationships with others.
- **CRITICAL SKILLS** – History teaches critical 21st century skills and independent thinking. The practice of history teaches research, judgment of the accuracy and reliability of sources, validation of facts, awareness of multiple perspectives and biases, analysis of conflicting evidence, sequencing to discern causes, synthesis to present a coherent interpretation, clear and persuasive written and oral communication, and other skills that have been identified as critical to a successful and productive life in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

### **TO OUR COMMUNITIES**

- **VITAL PLACES TO LIVE AND WORK** – History lays the groundwork for strong, resilient communities. No place really becomes a community until it is wrapped in human memory: family stories, tribal traditions, civic commemorations. No place is a community until it has awareness of its history. Our connections and commitment to one another are strengthened when we share stories and experiences.
- **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT** – History is a catalyst for economic growth. People are drawn to communities that have preserved a strong sense of historical identity and character. Cultural heritage is a demonstrated economic asset and an essential component of any vibrant local economy, providing an infrastructure that attracts talent and enhances business development.

### **TO OUR FUTURE**

- **ENGAGED CITIZENS** – History helps people craft better solutions. At the heart of democracy is the practice of individuals coming together to express views and take action. By bringing history into discussions about contemporary issues, we can better understand the origins of and multiple perspectives on the challenges facing our communities and nation. This can clarify misperceptions, reveal complexities, temper volatile viewpoints, open people to new possibilities, and lead to more effective solutions for today’s challenges.
- **LEADERSHIP** – History inspires local and global leaders. History provides leaders with inspiration and role models for meeting the complex challenges that face our communities, nations, and the world. It may be a parent, grandparent or distant ancestor, a local or national hero, or someone famous or someone little known. Their stories reveal how they met the challenges of their day, which can give new leaders the courage and wisdom to confront the challenges of our time.
- **LEGACY** – History, saved and preserved, is the foundation for future generations. History is crucial to preserving democracy for the future by explaining our shared past. Through the preservation of authentic, meaningful places, documents, artifacts, images, and stories, we leave a foundation upon which future Americans can build. Without the preservation of our histories, future citizens will have no grounding in what it means to be an American.

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