

DANCING RABBIT GENEALOGICAL
and
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

SPRING-SUMMER EDITION

2023

President's Message

Dear Members and Friends of Dancing Rabbit,

The weather tells us that we are in for a very long and very hot Mississippi summer. What makes the heat and sultry air bearable is our good fortune to live where the gifts of the earth include a wonderful bounty of fruits, succulent and sweet, and our tables are blessed with the most delicious vegetables in the world. Who among us would turn away from green beans with red potatoes and corn that needs no butter to savor its goodness? We honor those who know how to make cornbread in black iron skillets that were handed down from the hands of our ancestors. We honor these things and more that are part of our Mississippi lives.

Dancing Rabbit is coming to the end of another good season. We have gathered to enjoy each other, to celebrate our history, and to support our organization. We have learned from our local presenters and from those who live down the road.

On **Wednesday, June 14th**, members and guests will meet at Sudduth House, 309 North Van Buren Street, for our last general meeting until fall season. There will be a social time at 12 noon and the presentation will begin at 1 PM. Mike Ellis will be our speaker. His presentation will focus on Jane's Walk which took place around Courthouse Square in early May. He will share how much of the old is new once again. As you know, Jane Jacobs was an urban planner of note. She has influenced the way planners view development. I admire her ideas concerning new structures in urban development. She believed in the new, but that the restoration of

old structures to embrace new uses is also very important. This is so evident in what is happening on the Square.

Our beautiful Sudduth House is always in preparation to serve the community. Our new dependency is evidence of this, giving new life to this amazing home.



Eads-Mansell-Sudduth House June 2023

The dependency is marching toward completion. The picture above does not do the design and quality of workmanship justice. This additional space is needed to provide a home for our archives. It blends with the original structure so very well and is a tribute to today's craftsmen. The breezeway and ramp provide a safe entry into the original house for those who may not be River Dancing at the moment. This entry ties the dependency to the house without compromising its historical integrity. Sonny Easom and all who have taken this journey have created a place where we will have a way to store and access information. The idea of our historical records being stored within these walls is wonderful. We are grateful.

During the summer we will continue working toward our goals. This is a new challenge and being part of creating something that will serve current as well as future generations is a blessing.

Bless each of you. Hope to see you on June 14th and again in September when the fall season begins. You are so appreciated. You are the reason we are here.

Susie

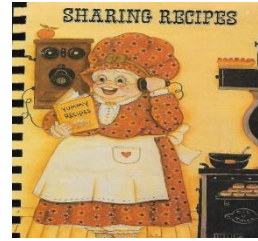
IN MEMORY

On May 9, 2023, Hugh Russell Grimes passed from this earth. He was born in Carthage, Mississippi, on July 11, 1931. There is much to be remembered about this proud man who loved history and especially genealogy. Hugh had been a member of Dancing Rabbit Genealogy and Historical Society for many years. He always had a little something to add to the conversation because he had a wealth of knowledge. His family has been respected in the community. They were among the founders of the New Hope Baptist Church.

Hugh was blessed with a loving family. His wife, Betty Stallone Grimes, of Natchez, journeyed with him throughout their long and loving marriage. He was a man of action. After retiring at age 52, he went on a quest to travel the entire country with Betty. They gathered and bonded with relatives to encourage them to honor the wonderful heritage they share. From his family's roots in Virginia, he traveled south, erecting, and sometimes replacing the markers that identified the resting places of those who had come before him.

Hugh loved his church, his family and his country. His roots reached deep into the soil of our nation's history. He was a member of the Sons of the American Revolution, the Sons of the Confederacy, the American Legion, Woodmen of the World and Free Masonry.

Hugh Russell Grimes participated in life. He joined, he restored, and he was a lifelong student of the world he so loved. He is honored by Dancing Rabbit. The world is changed by his passing. We were fortunate to have been among his friends.



At Dancing Rabbit Society we love to enjoy good food. The sharing of food is so much of our tradition. Many of our friends keep their tables set just in case someone drops by. The first thing one hears in our homes is "What can I offer you to drink or would you like a piece of cake?" To honor this tradition, we will be sharing some of the recipes that have been enjoyed by our members and guests.

The recipe that follows has had quite a journey. It comes from the Methodist Cookbook and was one Bobby Henderson contributed some years ago. The recipe passed to Mona Raborn and she is willing to share with all of you. This cake has perfect pound cake texture, wonderful flavor, and yes, it has a beautiful crust that is the hallmark of a well made pound cake. Enjoy!!

SOUR CREAM POUND CAKE

Bobbye M. Henderson

2 sticks butter	½ tsp. baking powder
½ c. Crisco shortening	6 large eggs
3 c. sugar	1 c. sour cream
3 c. cake flour	2 tsp. vanilla flavoring

Preheat oven to 325 degrees. Prepare tube pan with shortening and flour (10- inch pan). Cream butter and Crisco until fluffy. Gradually add sugar; cream until you do not feel grains of sugar. Add eggs, one at a time, beating well after each egg.

Sift flour with baking powder. Alternate this mixture with sour cream, beginning and ending with flour. Add vanilla.

Pour into prepared tube pan. Bake in 325 degree oven for 1 hour or until done.

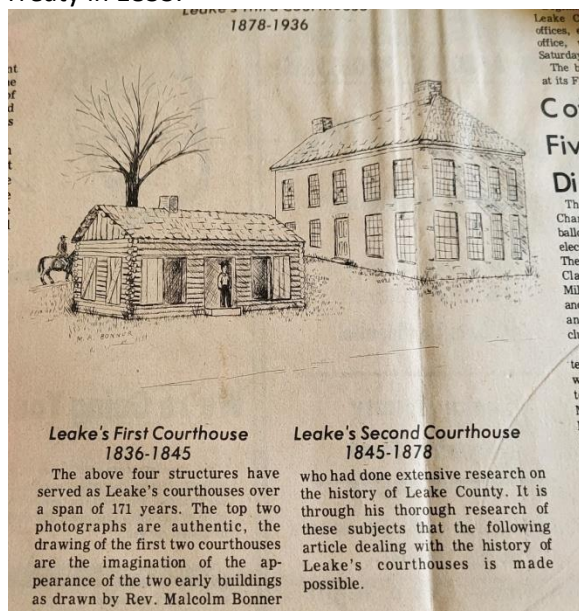


COURTHOUSE EVOLUTION

As the County Seat of our communities, Carthage has been where our leadership has found a home. Historically the citizens of our area have found a voice within the walls of the four structures that have graced the Square.

The information cited is based on the in depth research by Rev. Malcolm Bonner. He reached deep into our local history to paint a picture of the evolution of the buildings that have housed our local government.

Leake County was one of 16 counties that were formed at the signing of the Dancing Rabbit Treaty in 1833.



The first courthouse in the new frontier was a simple log cabin. According to Rev. Bonner's research, the Police Court began making plans for this first courthouse and jail. It served the people from 1836 until 1845. The drawing that you see above is not the actual cabin, but of a building that would have been constructed at the time of the newly formed county of Leake.

The second courthouse drawing is also based on research. It was built in 1845, and housed local government until 1878. The county was growing and so was the Square. In August 1844, provisions for taxes to construct a new

courthouse were made. It was a two-story structure made of brick. The building was located by a well that was dug for its specific use. The second floor provided a place for the gathering of organizations. The Odd Fellows Lodge paid \$26.00 a year to meet and the Free Masons and the Sons of Temperance each paid fifty cents per meeting. The courthouse was intended to serve as a meeting place for citizens of the community as well as the seat of Leake County affairs.



The image of the third courthouse is an actual image. It was created out of necessity. There came a time when the existing building either needed extensive repair or a new building had to be constructed. A contract was awarded to P. J. Tiller for the sum of \$7,326. This building was used until 1935 when it was demolished to make room for the building that we see today.

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(continued Courthouse Evolution)



The courthouse we see today was completed in 1936 and was remodeled in 1946. In 1976 it was again remodeled and restored where needed and has been maintained and utilized by our local government since that time. It stands in honor of our history of progress and our leadership in our county seat.

The information above is from an article found in the Carthaginian, volume 105, February 24, 1977. We have several old newspapers in our archival collection.



June 14 is Flag Day

The Old Country Store

Those who live and work in rural areas learn many things. Children of the land know what it means to work hard. They see the early morning sun create the sparkle that rests on the droplets of dew. They see the coming of storms that crawl across the pastures sending the cattle to seek shelter in the dense trees. They know what it is like to eat food that they helped to provide. The land is their home and they count. These country folk also know the wonder of a country store.

Country stores made it possible for people of the land to survive in the days when going to town was difficult if not impossible. Farm work never ends. If it was not to be found at the country store, maybe one did not need it. Country stores provided the seeds for planting, the fuel for keeping warm, clothing that could withstand laboring days, shoes that fit most of the time and other necessities that made survival possible.

The young children of the land also knew that there was joy within the walls of a country store. They knew that ice-cold sodas, toys, penny candy, chocolate milk in little glass bottles, and cream filled snowball cakes that appeared to be wearing fuzzy marshmallow sweaters were available to savor. On hot summer days there was coolness in the shadows above the oiled floors, and there was a plastic treasure to be found in the bottom of a Cracker Jack box.

We celebrate the country store; however, time marches on and many are no longer in business. They live in our memories. One such store is the Daughtery Store in Renfroe. It offered everything needed to maintain daily life, plus a (continued)

place where one could see a film for 50 cents. This store housed an art gallery where one could take lessons from Cammie Daughtery to connect with that creative spirit that is so much a part of our lives. Every country store had

individual personalities and fulfilled the needs of the community they served. Daughtery's Store was a shining example of this.

There are those today who soldier on and maintain these wonderful establishments.

Gee's Store in Conway still provides a place where customers can buy fuel, do their laundry, purchase the "fixin's" for lunch that can include freshly sliced liver cheese. The community cat is waiting to be petted. There is respite from the heat of summer and a place to warm up during the cold days of winter. Gee's Store has been providing for the needs of the community for 60 years and continues to do so.

We must look for the connections that allow touching of the past.



Hoop cheese at Gee's Store.