

DANCING RABBIT GENEALOGICAL and HISTORICAL SOCIETY

SUMMER EDITION

JUNE-AUGUST 2022

President's Message

Dear Members and Friends of Dancing Rabbit,

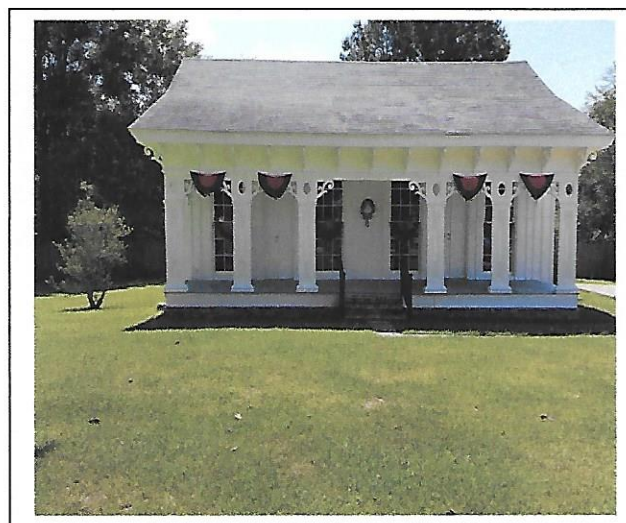
We are well into the summer heat with no end in sight. Let us remember this when the winter winds of Mississippi are howling around our front doors. For now, we are glued to our lawn tractors just to keep ahead of the growing grass.

Summer is a time to regroup. As you know, we are working to provide a venue for small gatherings. This is a commitment that was made when we obtained this beautiful house. It is exciting to share our hard work with the community. Having a venue here will also help to provide the funds to maintain the house and property. Historic homes always need care. That is their nature. The Planning Committee has completed their work formulating the contract that will be a part of the rental process. A special thank you goes to Sally Easom who provided the leadership for this project. The trick to writing the contract was to create a document that allows for small gatherings and also protects the historic structure that we at Dancing Rabbit call home. When the board next meets, the contract will be approved or revised. I will keep you posted.

A bridal shower is our first event. It is my hope that someday far into the future, a young woman will say that her great-grandmother celebrated her upcoming marriage right in the parlor we enjoy today. Dancing Rabbit shelters the history, the traditions, and life in our community. The creation of a new family is wonderful.

I am happy to report that Pam Tucker has consented to serve as treasurer of our organization. Pam is a wonderful asset. She really knows what she is doing. Kathy Heidorn has had this very difficult job for many years. We are grateful for all she has done for us in this capacity. She is now working to organize our archives. We are thankful for the commitment of our members.

We are looking forward to autumn with the hope that whatever monkey pox is will be held at bay. We are eager to have interesting programs, good celebrations and friendship as we reach out to embrace the coming year. We are always looking



for those members and friends who want to share their stories and traditions. Please email your articles to drghsociety@yahoo.com.

We would love to hear from you.

Susie

September Meeting

Summer break is over. Our general meetings will resume on **Wednesday, September 14**, at the Eads-Mansell-Sudduth House. Mike Ellis will be presenting the September program. Mike has presented many interesting and engaging programs in the past so mark your calendar.....you don't want to miss this one. The program will be on Ellis family history.....his ancestors who grew up in the county, their hardships, schools, entertainment, etc...how his family survived the Depression era trials of everyday life.

We will have social hour beginning at 12 noon, followed by the general meeting at 1 PM.

Come join us for this enlightening program and bring a friend.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

September Meeting	Wednes.	Sept. 14
October Meeting	Wednes.	Oct. 12
November Meeting	Wednes.	Nov.9
Veteran's Day	Friday	Nov. 11
Thanksgiving Day	Thurs.	Nov. 24
December Meeting	Wednes.	Dec. 14

THE UNEXPLAINED CREATIVE PROCESS

Deanna Barber is one of the newer members of our Dancing Rabbit family. She is an accomplished and creative artist who makes the world more beautiful with her work. Her quilts and her jewelry exemplify her intricate style that requires more than skill, but also her innate understanding of design. Among her creations are beaded amulets in the tradition of Native Americans.



Native Americans have produced beadwork for centuries. The early beads were created out of stone, bone, shells, and pearl. These creations were inspired by the customs, beliefs and dreams of the individual tribes; however, the advent of European traders brought glass beads to the tribes and these beads became part of the traditional craft.



Deanna includes symbols of the Christian faith in her creations. When asked how she knows the origin of her beadwork ability, she will say she cannot explain it; she just knows. Many people find that they possess abilities that spring from unknown sources. Somehow they "just know" and the results can be wonderful in their gardens, in their homes, and in the lives

that they live each day. Somehow, like Deanna, they just know.



HEROES IN OUR EVERYDAY LIVES

Our country has produced countless heroes. Some are chronicled in the news. Each of us has heroes. They are the people who set examples for living by the way they live. One heroic lady was named Lawanda Georgia Johnson. Her life represents how women historically have met the needs of our country. During World War II, there was great need to support the war effort. The world depended on us. The fighting overseas required materials of war. So many boarded the ships that would take them on their perilous journeys and then there were those who answered the call at home. Lawanda and many like her put down the tools of domestic life. Her husband, Lynn, went to France and England. He was away three years. Lawanda went to Houston. The need for materials to construct the aircraft that would defend our land and the lands of our allies was great. Lawanda went to work at Hughes Aircraft and learned how to TIG weld. She and countless others produced materials that became part of the structure of war. At the beginning of the war, aircraft production for the military was 3,000; however, by the end of the war America had produced 300,000 aircraft. When peace finally returned, many women returned to their homes and many stayed in the American work force. There is honor in both. When a child cries, the mother puts down whatever she is doing and picks up her child. When the nation cries, the women of America have demonstrated their readiness to put down what they are doing to meet the needs of our land. Lawanda was one of them.

On September 5, we will celebrate the workers of our country. All work is honorable and all who go out each day to provide for themselves and their families also provide for our nation. It is right that we recognize the productivity and the achievements of America's workers. HAPPY LABOR DAY

THE VOICES of OUR ANCESTORS

There are those who would argue that today is all that counts and then there are those who believe that the voices of the past help us to understand who we are today. We speak to our past everyday when we repeat the family words to live by, when we remember how good our grandmother's biscuits were, when we remember the heroes of our families, and the many contacts that we have with those who have come before us. We celebrate these things and seeing the moment someone learns something about their family is quite beautiful.

On June 8, John Latham presented a program concerning unknown facts about the Ludlow community. The communities in our area have rich histories and John is all about the research that brings the past to life. He is a wonderful story teller and always attracts a crowd. There is something for everyone in his presentations. On this day Janie Bilbro Upchurch was in the audience. During the program she moved forward to embrace every word. Janie knows many things about her mother's O'Cain family but very little about the Bilbro side. She can trace her father's family by name and location. The first of them was a man named Berriman who arrived in North Carolina in the 1600's. It seems there was a tradition to name sons Berry. There was Little Berry of North Carolina and Little Berry, Jr. who came to make the Ludlow community his home. Janie knew nothing more until John gave the names of those who were active in the three churches founded in Ludlow in the 1800's. One of these was L.B. Bilbro who served as the secretary of Ludlow Baptist Church. On her way home the "light came on" and Janie connected the L.B. to her great, great grandfather, Little Berry. She was grateful to catch a glimpse of his life in Ludlow and found out from John that the old Bilbro home place still stands.

Our ancestors rest quietly in the past until suddenly they reveal pieces of their lives at

unexpected times. Perhaps one of your ancestors will speak to you today.

OOPS!! Barking up the wrong tree

On August 14, Janie Bilbro Upchurch and Susie Johnson were hot on the trail of Little Berry Bilbro, Janie's great, great grandfather. The weather was warm. No, the weather was hot, but the trip was wonderful. The Old Ludlow Cemetery is surrounded by tall and ancient trees. They stand sentinel over the sleeping ancestors of so many of the community. Many names on the stones were familiar and yes, we did find L.B. Bilbro. Yes but, we found great uncle, not great, great grandfather. Looking into the past requires patience and attention to detail. We placed sunflowers on the grave of great uncle and moved on to locate the Bilbro home.

We did locate the home. It still stands although it is no longer lived in. Here the Bilbro family sat on the front porch on Mississippi evenings. Here they warmed themselves on cold and rainy nights by Mississippi fires. It was for Janie the touching of the surface of her roots. She was home in a place called Ludlow, Mississippi. She will continue to pursue great, great grandfather Little Berry. He is out there somewhere.

This is the nature of genealogy. Happy Hunting!!



Bilbro Homestead

Welcome New Members

Jessica Holden

Bill and Dorris Harrell Kindred

William G. Lindsay

Current Board Members

President.....Susie Johnson

Vice President.....Lynn Johnson

Secretary.....Marilyn Strum

Treasurer.....Pam Tucker

Archivist.....Kathy Heidorn

Directors.....Mike Ellis

Mona Raborn

Henry Bryan

DRGHS Publications

Leake County Mississippi Marriage Records, Volume 1

Marriage Books A-D
1835 -through February 187
\$5.00 * plus shipping (Special price)

Looking Back

Genealogical Abstracts from the Carthaginian 1872-1900
\$27.50 * plus shipping Secretary

Leake County Mississippi Tombstone Inscriptions

\$39.95 * plus shipping

Dancing Rabbit Genealogical Society Pedigrees Leake County, Mississippi

\$35.00 * plus shipping

*Mississippi residents add 7% sales tax.

For information or to order please contact us at
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or drghsociety@yahoo.com