

November Meeting

On Wednesday, **November 8**, our general meeting will be held at the Choctaw Cultural Center located at 101 Industrial Drive, Choctaw, MS. This meeting has been planned to honor the first Mississippians. There will be a guided tour of the collection and a video. The Cultural Center is free for those of us over 57 and a charge of \$5.00 for those younger than 57. We are responsible for our lunch and transportation. We plan to meet at Sudduth House and leave at 10:30. Our tour will begin at 11:00. Some of you may plan to meet us at the Center at 11 AM.

We need a head count for the tour so if you plan to attend **please call Marilyn Strum, 601-497-0007 by November 1**. Also advise us if you will need to car pool.

President's Message

There is a saying that comes to mind when I think about Dancing Rabbit. It goes something like this, "It is not the destination but it is the journey." Our organization has had many journeys as it has grown and embraced the changes that must occur to meet the challenges of a changing world.

We have accomplished so very much. We have restored the beautiful Eads-Mansell-Sudduth home. This home has roots in the very fabric of our area. Col. Eads built this structure to last. He could have built a simple roof over his head so to speak; however, he created a place of beauty where families could grow in tradition. The Mansell family protected the integrity of the home and the Sudduth's entrusted this place to us and we open our doors to our communities, sharing our history.

DANCING RABBIT GENEALOGICAL

and

HISTORICAL SOCIETY

FALL EDITION 2023

It became apparent that to move forward in our journey we needed space. We have been blessed by the generosity of our members and our benefactors. Our problem was there was no place large enough to access our wonderful archives. Dixie Petty's family shared her lifelong journey, collecting and organizing information about families, our culture, and our history on the local, state, and national levels. She stored her research in white binders and books. It is wonderful. We were also gifted by Matsy Clark Walker and Dorothy Jackson and family as well as books that were part of Harry Sasser's library. These resources must be shared or the generosity of the people who believed in family traditions and culture will go unnoticed and unused and the legacy that is now ours to protect and share will not be honored. Our benefactors again stepped forward to provide the resources we needed for our collection. Our board made plans for a storage building; however, one thing led to another and our archives took on a life of their own. They were not to live in a storage building, but in a dependency that enhances the historical significance of this home. Our members have embraced this place to create a research center that will continue to serve our communities and our wonderful state. We have become a steppingstone to honor those who have come before us. (continued page 2)

Our building is now complete. Sonny Easom and the craftsmen who worked with him have used the vision of the Design Committee to make that vision a reality. No one else could have accomplished what they have accomplished and no one could have championed the project more than Sally Easom and the Planning Committee.

Now we are in the middle of the great move. With the leadership of Kathy Heidorn, our archives are finding a home in the research center.

Our work has only begun. We are striving to have this phase complete by spring when the center will be dedicated to our membership, our families, our communities and our state. We are part of the legacy of our founders and embrace new members and new visions as we move into the future.

On an afternoon as I was leaving our home, a young woman was waiting for her child at the bus stop. She got out of her car and approached me with the question, "What is this place?" I have thought about this since that encounter. My answer is that this is the gift of opportunity, a place to investigate who we are, a place to honor our families and our history and, most of all, a place to serve our communities.

IT IS GRAND!!

Susie

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

DRGHS Board meeting Wed. Nov 1 10 AM

Election Day Tues. Nov 7

DRGHS Meeting Wed. Nov 8
(meet by 10:30, trip to Choctaw Cultural Center)

Veterans Day Sat. Nov 11

Thanksgiving Day Thurs. Nov 23

DRGHS Board meeting Wed. Dec 6 10 AM

DRGHS Christmas Social Wed. Dec 13

