



## **Jones County Journey's Upcoming Events**

### **Meeting Dates**

**February 24, 2024**

**March 23, 2024**

**April 27, 2024**

**May 25, 2024**

**June 22, 204**

**July 27,**

**No meeting for November & December**

**All meetings are held at the Laurel Jones County  
Library and begin at 10:15 am unless otherwise  
announced.**

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**Please watch for an-  
nouncements of meeting  
times & places on our Face-  
book pages.**

**Meetings are subject to  
cancelation due to unfore-  
seen circumstances.**

**Watch for announcements  
on Facebook and email.**

Jones County Genealogical and Historical Organization  
Saturday, August 26, 2023

The meeting on August 26, 2023 began by welcoming Steve Guy back and with prayer by Charles Robine and pledge of allegiance to the United States flag. Minutes from the last meeting on 7/22/23 were read by Charles Robine. Motion to accept prior meeting minutes was made by Carolyn Horne, seconded by Mary Jo Robine.

The program for the meeting was presented by Rick Ellzey: Safety in the cemetery and how to clean/maintain headstones and monuments.

**Old Business:**

Everyone was reminded that it is time to pay membership dues and to submit recipes for the cookbook. Carolyn Horne brought 3 family cookbooks and passed them around as examples with family stories. Everyone needs to submit recipes and a one-page story about the family by emailing them to Susan Blakeney. The goal is to have all recipes/stories turned in by the October meeting and to complete the project in January or February.

The group was reminded that photos of unknown people who need to be identified can be emailed to Susan for posting to the Facebook page. Members and non-members can submit photos. Susan will scan photos submitted by group members, but non-members must do their own scanning.

Charles Robine discussed working in cemeteries. At the August 5, 2023 special committee meeting, a list of cemeteries was proposed. If anybody has any to suggest, it can be written on the list. The list of committee members was named: Charles Robine, Roy Hammond, Royce Stringer, Gene Phillips, Tim Dudley (?). The list of proposed cemeteries was read: Patterson Gore, Hinton at Summerland, Hutson in Jasper County (with permission), Mt. Olive on Hwy 84W, Poplar in Ellisville under water tower, Old Maid in Sandersville, Heidelberg Cemetery, Neil Cemetery, Indian Springs at the church, and Shows Cemetery off Hwy 84W. Gene Phillips suggested finding unidentified cemeteries. The tasks are stone cleaning/repair, brush trimming, weed eating, etc. Committee members also want to place flags on veterans' graves for Veterans Day. Anyone who wants to be on the committee can add his or her name to the list or anyone can serve as a volunteer.

**New Business:**

Royce Stringer was not in attendance, but he had asked Susan to show an album done several years ago by a Boy Scout troop who cleaned up a cemetery and documented their work.

The October "eating meeting" was discussed as 10/28/23 will be the last meeting of the year.

There are no meetings in November or December because of the holidays. Carolyn Horne was appointed chairman of the food committee. Susan suggested getting the meat (chicken strips) from Vic's and each member bring a vegetable.

A motion was made by Rick Ellzey, seconded by Mary Jo Robine (?) to ask Susan to determine a monetary average for meeting refreshments. Charles Robine mentioned that we need to start getting a treasury report again. Susan thinks it should be for members only, not for the newsletter. Susan will print one for the next meeting. A decision is needed about what to do if Magnolia Bank discontinues donating food and coffee for the meetings. Susan said there needs to be a fund for a year, and a decision is needed on what to do.

Susan mentioned that the Saturday library hours will change beginning 9/01/23 to 8 am until 1

meetings at the same time, 10 am to 12 pm, on the fourth Saturday.

Speaker for the next meeting \_not announced but Charles mentioned Rick doing something else.

Members Present (13 count):

Charles Robine (President), Mary Jo Robine, Susan Blakeney, Carolyn Horne, Jerry Q. Smith, Diane Bates, Rick Ellzey, Nerissa Stephens, Mary Smith, Betty Morad, Gene Phillips, Steve Guy, and Tommy Welch.

Jones County Genealogical and Historical Organization  
Saturday, September 23, 2023

The meeting on September 23, 2023 began with opening prayer by Charles Robine, and Tim Dudley lead the pledge of allegiance to US flag. Minutes from the last meeting on 8/26/2023 were read by Nerissa Stephens. Motion to accept prior meeting minutes was made by Mary Jo Robine, seconded by Susan Blakeney.

There was no guest speaker for the meeting.

**Old Business:**

Charles said he is hoping the cemetery committee could have a meeting this coming week. Anybody who wants to be member or volunteer needs to write your name and phone number on a sheet of paper. The members will be called, but not necessarily the volunteers. Volunteers can help as needed and available. It involves lots of walking and physical work, so anybody not able doesn't need to be a member but can be a volunteer. Charles asked Tim Dudley to try to have a meeting in the upcoming week concerning doing a small dry run through a small cemetery before the October meeting. It will give any new members a chance to know what is going on and let everybody know what is happening. Charles asked Nerissa Stephens to start sending the meeting minutes to Mary Jo Robine when sent to Susan Blakeney.

Charles asked If anybody has any cemeteries in mind that are not large.

- Gene Phillips mentioned Moselle Memorial Gardens, which is large and well maintained, needs donations to repave their circle driveway.
- Susan Blakeney said we might consider the Bynum Cemetery in Ellisville. A member of our group, Paula H. Moore, is part of the Bynum family. She makes trips here about 3 times a year from Fort Lonesome, Florida to clean the cemetery herself. It is on East Holly street. Charles said this would be a good one to start with.
- Nerissa Stephens suggested the small cemetery on Hwy 84 East at what used to be Lee's Chapel Free Will Baptist Church (now Greater Harvest Ministry, 2916 Hwy 84E) across from the Holifield Road Dollar General. It has a wooden fence that is leaning over.
- Nancy Musgrove suggested Shows Cemetery on Old Soso Road near Lake Heritage. It has 6 or 8 graves.
- Ted Musgrove suggested Knight Cemetery in Hebron. It is private cemetery where Newt Knight's grandfather is buried. There are wood crosses on some of the graves.
- Gene Phillips mentioned Windham Cemetery in Laurel, next to Masonite on Melon Street near where a railroad track used to be.
- There was a discussion of graves without markers. Somebody suggested looking for unknown graves in church records.

Charles reminded everybody to pay dues, email pictures of unknown people needing identification, and to email recipes for the cookbook.

For the October 28th “eating meeting,” Carolyn Horne, who is in charge of the food, made a list of food that each would bring.

Susan Blakeney brought the monetary balance for refreshments, as discussed in the prior meeting. Susan had not heard anything new from Magnolia Bank about continuing to fund the refreshments, and she suggested that a certain amount, like \$500, be set aside for the year in case the bank doesn’t donate again. Currently, \$35 to \$45 per meeting is being spent for refreshments, juice, and water. Any amount over \$100 needs a vote. Motion was made by Mary Jo Robine to set aside \$500 for the upcoming year, seconded by Tim Dudley.

#### **New Business:**

Charles asked Tim Dudley to check into bringing Boy Scouts into the spring meetings next year to see if they would like to work in cemeteries for their Eagle Scout projects.

Charles said he looked at the membership roll and saw that a few years ago we had over 200 members across several states. Charles asked Susan what happened to them. Susan said she knew we had lost 10 members to Covid.

Susan said that the newsletter is sent to Allen Count Public Library in Fort Wayne, Indiana. They are the second largest genealogical research library in the U.S. They post our newsletters on their website. Our organization has two Facebook pages. On the website, there are links to order the books and links become a member. Ted Musgrove mentioned possibly having online meetings.

Charles told about Rick Ellzey giving him about 40 boxes of records, some were land records from oil field leased land and some were records for civic clubs. The archives staff picked them up and took them to be archived.

Charles has not heard anymore about the records. Susan said they were likely waiting to be archived, and she would send an email to the person she knows at the helpdesk to see if he remembers getting the records.

Charles said things need to be done other than cemeteries and having meetings. He said we need to start doing genealogy and history. There are a lot of things such as historical buildings, old homes, and businesses like Masonite that we could write a short history on and give it as a report. George Bassi at the Lauren Rogers Museum has a lot of knowledge of Laurel history. Susan will call him to do a history of Laurel and possibly have a meeting at the museum.

There was a discussion of newspapers.com and newspaperarchives.com. Susan explained that there are missing years and the that Laurel Leader-Call stopped in March 2012 when that company went out of business. Archives from the current Laurel Leader-Call are not available. The Laurel Library has the 1943, 1944 and 1945 years on microfiche but not the 1960s.

Diane Bates announced a free open house at the Deason Home in Ellisville on November 4th. It is a celebration of the 40th anniversary of the Tallahala DAR chapter. There is a handicap ramp available.

Susan said that Francis Phillips Murphy might be willing to do two speeches, one on the Phillips family of PDI’s Drive-In and another on the Deason Home history. She is the one who does the Deason Home tours. Susan sent her a text message during the meeting.

The next meeting will the October 28th “eating meeting.” Everybody was reminded to bring food and bring somebody with you.

Motion to adjourn was made by Tim Dudley and seconded by Ted Musgrove.

Attendees (13 count):

Charles Robine (President), Mary Jo Robine, Susan Blakeney, Carolyn Horne, Diane Bates, Nerissa Stephens, Betty Morad, Gene Phillips, Steve Guy, and Tim Dudley, Ted Musgrove, Nancy Musgrove

Jones County Genealogical and Historical Organization  
Saturday, October 28, 2023  
The "Eating Meeting"

The meeting on October 28, 2023 began by welcoming and introducing four visitors. Visitors: Peggy Moss who brought old pictures is the neighbor of Barbara Rayburn, Nell Bennett from Hattiesburg is Mary Jo Robine's sister, Roy Morad is Betty Morad's husband, and Vaster Harper is Nerissa Stephens' uncle. Charles Robine told everybody they are welcome to come back, and they don't have to join as a member to attend the meetings.

Opening prayer was by Charles Robine, and Tim Dudley lead the pledge of allegiance to US flag. Minutes from the last meeting on 9/23/2023 were read by Nerissa Stephens. Diane Bates added that the time for the 11/04/2023 free open house sponsored by the Tallahala DAR at the Deason Home in Ellisville had been set as 2 pm to 4 pm. Motion to approve prior meeting minutes was made by Tim Dudley, seconded by Carolyn Horne. There was no guest speaker for the meeting. This was the "eating meeting."

**Business:**

Charles said the base cemetery committee had a couple of meetings. Anybody can put their name on the list to volunteer. Not all members were called this time but will be called in the future. The group went to Indian Springs Baptist Church Cemetery, a fairly large cemetery. It's in two sections. They decided to do just one section, the lower section. Quite a few headstones needed cleaning. Tim Dudley, Chairman of Cemetery Committee, read the minutes from the 9/30/23 cemetery meeting related to the Indian Springs Cemetery. Another committee meeting was set for 10/21/23 to check the results of the cleaner that had been sprayed 9/30/23. More spraying was done while they were there. On 10/26/23 two committee members met at Patterson-Gore Cemetery east of Laurel and also at Windham Cemetery near Masonite. It was determined that both of those will need a lot of work. Minutes from the three cemetery committee meetings were read by Tim Dudley and Rick Ellzey. Minutes from these three meetings have been scanned and accompany with this document.

Royce Stringer told that the Patterson-Gore Cemetery is on private property. It is a historical cemetery because two Confederate veterans are buried there, and that is what allows the county supervisor to leave county roads to work on private property. The law in MS allows supervisors to work on cemeteries that are classified as historical. Since it is on private property, we need to try to track down some of the people that were planning to have a re-dedication of that cemetery last February. Jiles Jones had contacted Susan last February concerning the re-dedication, but he lives out of the community. He might be able to tell us some local people to talk with before trying to restore stones or digging with a shovel. The genealogical society needs to make it known to somebody first since it is private property. Spraying cleaner can be done without permission because it doesn't disturb anything. One of the Confederate soldiers is Reteete Loper (spelling ?), and the other soldier's last name is Touchstone. Charles said let Tim know which cemetery is decided on for work, and members on the list will be called in November to work a couple of Saturdays.

Charles requested suggestions for future meeting programs. Someone could do a history of Laurel, a part of Laurel, an industry in Laurel, industry leaders, people, places, buildings, or historical events. It needs to be within the state, but it does not necessarily need to be in Jones County. We need to have someone do a program every once in a while.

· Charles asked Gene Phillips about doing a program on the Strickland books in the January meeting.

- Rick Ellzey mentioned the three historical books that are already published by the organization. He suggested someone talking about a family and maybe starting with a family in the books.
  - Royce Stringer suggested someone speak about cemeteries and enlighten us on the history of any cemetery.
  - Gene Phillips said the Pearl River County Genealogy Club has quick topics where a member will speak for 15 minutes. Their last quick topic was a how to read a cousin chart. Rick Ellzey agreed to do that for the February meeting.
  - For the March or April meeting, Charles said that maybe Tim could get the Boy Scouts here to work on their merit badges.
  - Tommy Welch told that he has the original land deed that his great grandparents had in Ellisville. They were born in the 1860s and they settled in the 1890s. He is the fourth generation living on that land. The deed has the old language used back in that day. Tommy said he could bring the original deed and we could look at it.
  - Gene Phillips brought a container of epoxy designed for marble and granite headstone repair. He said the man who gave it to him might do a program. The man's company has developed a new way to do burials instead of cremations or whole-body burials. They take all the moisture out of the body and bury it in a cylinder. An entire family can be put in the cylinder. One cylinder can hold several generations. When one dies, the body gets dropped into the cylinder, and the name gets added to the tombstone. The man is working with a polymer company in Alabama developing polymer concrete grave vaults that are lightweight and strong.
- Charles says the information for our meeting topics is only for this group. Nerissa asked shouldn't it be documented and kept so that others who come to the library to do research can have access to it. Charles said that might be a good point.

At 11:07 a.m., a motion was made by Charles Robine to end the meeting and go eat, and it was seconded by Tim Dudley.

Nerissa had Charles to ask if everyone had signed the attendance sheet. There were a few in attendance who did not sign in.

Attendees (17 count):

Charles Robine (President), Mary Jo Robine, Carolyn Horne, Diane Bates, Nerissa Stephens, Betty Morad, Roy Morad, Gene Phillips, Steve Guy, Tim Dudley, Royce Stringer, Tommy Welch, Rick Ellzey, Barbar

All minutes respectfully submitted by Nerissa Stephens, Secretary, JCGHO

### **Mrs. J. W. Tucker Taken by Death Saturday Morning**

Mrs. J. W. Tucker, pioneer citizen of the county and a member of the family of whom Tucker's Crossing was named, died at her home at five o'clock Saturday morning. Funeral arrangements will not be decided until all of the children of the family arrive.

Mrs. Tucker was 69 years old. She was born in Smith County and reared in the northwestern part of Jones county. She moved to Tucker's Crossing when she married over 50 years ago.

She was a member of the Baptist Church and was an outstanding citizen in her community. She is survived by her husband, J. W. Tucker, and 16 children, six sons and ten daughters.

The sons who survive are: M. C. Tucker, Laurel; T. W. Tucker, Baton Rouge La; O. L. Tucker, New Orleans; J. N. Tucker, Rt. 3, Ellisville; M. V. Tucker, Rt. 3, Ellisville; and Robert Tucker, Laurel.

The daughters are: Mrs. Ona Bush, Richton; Mrs. L.P. Sumrall, Gulfport; Mrs. J. W. Perryman, Wilma Al; Mrs. Nola Mitchell, Gulfport; Mrs. B. M. Long, Laurel; Mrs. Velma Sumrall, Holly Bluff; Mrs. Elma Landrum, Holly Bluff; Miss Anie Tucker, Rt. 4, Laurel; Mrs. Nellie Strahan, Rt. 4 Laurel; and Miss Carrie Tucker, Pensacola Fl.

\*\*\*Source: *The Laurel Leader Call*, Saturday, January 9, 1937, page 10

**Laurel leader call 11-11-1918 pg 1 on newspaperarchive**

*FLAGS UNFULRED; JOY REIGNS TODAY*

LAUREL CELEBRATES AS SHE HAS NEVER CELEBRATED BEFORE

Sirens of the City Awake a Sleeping People to the Fact That It's All Over Over There.

"The War is Over"

That was the message received by the Leader this morning at 2 o'clock. The force was soon on the job and at 4:30 o'clock and extra was on the streets giving all the details. A few seconds later the whistles of the city with one Accord proclaimed the glad tidings to a waiting people, upon whose hearts for four long years the burden of carnage and strife had weighted. There was no sleeping after the whistles began. The streets were soon filled with happy shouting people, and the din of the trumpet and drums filled the air. People began to celebrate.

There was no fixed programs. It was a spontaneous continuous celebrating. Nothing like it had ever been witnessed in the city and probably never be again. Mothers with eyes filled with tears of joy, thinking of their own particular hero "over there" walked the streets all the while breathing a silent prayer of thanks that it was all over.

Chas. Sims, engineer of the Eastman Gardiner plant has the honor of giving the first blast of victory in the city. As soon as he was informed over the telephone of the signing of the armistice, he hastened to the engine room and tied the whistle cord down. Thought no previous arrangements had been made for the blowing of the whistles the engineers and firemen in the other factories of the city knew what it meant, and they followed Mr. Sims' lead. The siren on the water works plant joined in, people over the city emptied their guns into the air, and the switch engines screeched their loudest. The fire truck loaded with firemen and other enthausiasts drove up and down the streets, both resident and business sections, the gong clanging and the passengers yelling.

Head over to

<https://geneal1.wixsite.com/my-site>

to check out Susan's Blog on Genealogy Tips  
with some Jones County History thrown in!

Scan the QR code below with your smart  
phone for quick access.



SCAN ME

Diane	Bates	443 Lower Myrick Rd.	Laurel	MS	39443
Gloria Jean	Byrd	583 Poole Creek Rd.	Laurel	MS	39443
Retha	Clements	1818 N. 3rd Ave	Laurel	MS	39440
Jane	Davis	122 Paige Lane	Franklin	NC	28734
Cindy	DeVall	205 Olympic Dr	Lafayette	LA	70506
James T.	Dudley, Jr.	3 Laurawood CT	Laurel	MS	39443
Rick	Ellzey	1804 Tuckers Crossing Rd	Laurel	MS	39443
Jennifer	Eckman	P. O. Box 390	Toomsaba	MS	39364
Jerry & April	Goss	2136 Union Church Road	Lucedale	MS	39452-6200
Steve	Guy	300 Mason St. Suite	Laurel	MS	369440
Jean	Holifield	1104 Crescent Hill Dr.	Laurel	MS	39440
Carolyn	Horne	702 N. 7th Ave Apt 304	Laurel	MS	39440
Monroe	Houston	11 Welborn Rd	Laurel	MS	39440
Paula	Hollowell	P. O. Box 291	Wimauma	FL	33598
Carla	Montgomery	2650 Hwy 15	Bay Springs	MS	39422
Betty	Morad	804 Sunrise Dr	Laurel	MS	39440
Frances	Murphy	1002 E. Magnolia	Ellisville	MS	39437
Ted	Musgrove	15 Top of Hill Lane	Carrier	MS	39426
Gene	Phillips	633 Rawls Springs Loop Rd	Hattiesburg	MS	39402
Margaret	Powell	15982 Sweet Violet Lane	Haymarket	VA	20169
Barbara B.	Rayburn	1016 Broadway St	Laurel	MS	39440
Charles	Robine	25 Harlon Matthews Rd	Laurel	MS	39443
Eva Rae	Shaw	135 N. 14th Ave.	Laurel	MS	39440
Jerry Q.	Smith	10 Twin Oaks Place	Laurel	MS	39440
Mary	Smith	88 Wisteria Trail	Laurel	MS	39443
Narissa	Stephens	453 Masonite Lake Rd	Laurel	MS	39443
Viola	Story	888 Lake Como Road	Laurel	MS	39443
Royce	Stringer	P. O. Box 142	Stringer	MS	39481
Merry Beth	Tigert	51 Honeysuckle Trail	Laurel	MS	39443
Shirley Diane	Vivion	40 Ilex Dr.	Newbury Park	CA	91320-3353
Jeremy & Tara	Wilson	1056 Euclid Ave	Laurel	MS	39440
Phil	Yeates	18633 Bay Ridge Ct.	Baton Rouge	LA	70817

These are the paid members of the JCGHO. At one time, we were well over 100 members. Please tell your family and friends about our wonderful organization and what we are doing for the preservation of the history of Jones County Mississippi.

Dues are only \$12 a year for an entire household. A membership form is available on our website, <https://www.jonescogenealogy.org/> and on our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/795649180551616>—just look under the file tab for the form to download and print out.





Photo was used in one of our JCGHO Calendars

### **Upcoming Events**

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**. If you have not yet paid your dues, now is the time!**

## WHO WE ARE.

Jones County Genealogy Organization & Historical Organization Inc. is formed exclusively for charitable and educational purposes.

The activities of the Organization include the study of genealogy in Jones County, Mississippi, and surrounding areas, the conduct of scholarly genealogical research, and the preservation of the records of past and present life in this area.

### Contact Us

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