

Presto Preservation Association

Board Meeting

October 31, 2015

Kathy Christiansen residence Blackfoot, ID

Meeting called to order by Kathy Christiansen at 1:05 p.m.

Attendance: Kathy Christiansen, Becky Davis, Wendy Pratt, Kent Just, Rick Just, Bob Reid, Jared Reid, Betsy Just, Debbie Reid-Oleson

Minutes: Kent Just made a motion to approve the minutes of the last meeting. Seconded and passed.

Financial Report: We have a current checking balance of \$11,264.65. Wendy went through income and expenses since 8/1/15, most notable being a \$1,000 donation from the Doug Reid estate for house restoration. Debbie made a motion to approve, seconded and passed. The reunion expenses totaled \$508.84 and the income from the auction was \$1,860.

Map: The map has been hung in the house by Davis's friend Mike Brasea. Wendy was asked if Tye Reid had paid for his print. (yes) She still has one more that is unclaimed. The map was displayed at the Eastern Idaho State Fair with great interest. Whitney Manwaring, commissioner, would like us to make it a part of a changing historical display at the county courthouse. Debbie and Justin Oleson will follow up on this.

Presto Press: We lost both Gwen Reid and Wallace Reid this year. We will dedicate the next issue to Gwen and concentrate on Wallace in the spring.

House Restoration:

Window Repairs: The window lady didn't get us a bid so we missed one, maybe two, grant cycles. Rick agreed to head up this project and will see if Idaho Heritage Trust has another window expert to recommend. We agreed to pursue the bricks and the windows simultaneously.

Bricks: Debbie has secured a bid from Doug Peery of Blackfoot to repair the bricks on the old Nels Just home for \$30,000 with a 60 day expiration date. He would do the work over 4 years and work during the summer months only. We would supply the bricks, caulking and seal coating, but the bid includes the mortar shipped from Europe. This expert in historical masonry was recommended by the Idaho Heritage Trust which put on a workshop on the subject that Debbie attended. Peery's previous work includes the train station in Wallace and the Episcopal church in Pocatello. While he was visiting our house, he had lunch in Firth and noted that next door a building was being dismantled. He thought the bricks might work for our project and they do! Rich Reid talked to the owner of the house and she agreed to 500 bricks at 50 cents each. Kent made a motion to secure as many bricks as we need for 50 cents each. Motion seconded and passed. Debbie will follow up with Peery about number of bricks.

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House Restoration Committee: We discussed the idea of a separate house restoration committee to help Debbie who is our ex-officio chairperson. Betsy suggested a fellow ancestor, Mike Sherman, from Salmon, who has a special interest and knowledge of masonry.

Cellar fence: We don't have consensus on how to design the picket fence to protect the cellar. We may decide to extend it in a larger outline to connect with the front fence. Wendy said she could put up something temporary to keep cattle off the roof for now and we will decide a more permanent fix later.

Screened porch repairs: We took this item off our discussion items because we are not storing the filing cabinet on the porch so it doesn't need to be shored up at this time.

Membership: We need to keep discussing ways to increase membership and facilitate annual dues paying. Rick will pursue answering the question, "how many living descendants are there of Nels and Emma Just?"

Ancestry.com: Rick, Merle and Kathy are active on ancestry.com. Board members were urged to participate directly or forwarding information for them to enter.

Website: Rick was thanked for the new website that is easy to operate and could be turned over to someone else who has minimal technical skills. He said that we can take paypal membership dues and it might even re-bill them after a year. It's called a "subscription" on the site.

Pioneer Cemetery: Wendy went over what we had discussed in the past regarding the cemetery. Because the land was donated by Wallace and Marlene Reid, Marlene said they didn't want any more bodies buried there because we aren't sure where the existing graves are and we don't want to risk disturbing them. However, they were okay with ashes. Following a discussion, Debbie made a motion that we allow scattering or burial of ashes with a marker that will need to be approved by the Board. Motion seconded and passed. We also agreed that our intent is to serve descendants of Nels and Emma Just and their spouses only. The actual boundary of the cemetery is believed to be bigger than the fence encompasses. If this becomes an issue in the future, we can pursue an official survey.

Insurance Coverage: Bob was able to secure liability coverage as a part of his policy. It didn't cost him anything. Thanks Bob!

House Inventory: Christy Reid hasn't located her list yet but will keep working on this.

By-Laws: Kathy said the single membership fee of \$15 was left out of the by-laws. She will add that and send them out for an annual approval. Kent moved to approve the latest by-laws review. Seconded and passed.

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Idaho Historical Museum: The Idaho State Historical Society has closed the museum in Boise for remodeling and will re-open in 2017. However they don't have plans to display artifacts including items given to them by Agnes Just Reid, most importantly Emma's side saddle. Kent talked to the director and she said she would be willing to discuss this further. Kent and Rick will follow up. Perhaps we can store the items until they want to display them? Maybe after the house is secured?

Reunion: Jared Reid said he is checking out prices and venues near Heise Hot Springs. Other than swimming, we could do mountain biking, horseback riding, zip line, golf, and night shows, all with the hope of attracting younger family members. He will see what it would cost to board horses as Debbie would like to host a trail ride on Friday. Jared will get cost estimates to Kathy by Dec. 1 and Kathy will prepare a synopsis to be sent out to family members to gauge interest.

House Tour Protocol: The questions of who, when, and how will need to be thought through. Rick will do an informal survey of how other historic homes in the area are handled.

Fundraisers: We brainstormed ideas including: a family basket raffle where you buy tickets and your name is drawn out rather than bidding on the item, crowd-funding for all 18+ family members of \$5.00, asking Brent Cotton to do a painting of the house and selling prints, selling bricks, having a "community social" of some kind where we tour the house, bingo, and offering names on a plaque prominently displayed.

Salt Lake Reid Sister trip: Wendy said she and her sisters had visited the JW Marriott Library in Salt Lake to view the Agnes Just Reid collection. The list of items housed there are available on the Web. She said the most notable items were letters from George Thompson to Emma and grandboys in the late 1800's. The sisters also went to Fort Douglas to track down George Bennett who was mustered out here but they did not find him on the rolls. Donna McWilliams is going to attempt to get his discharge papers back East at a place recommended by the staff at Fort Douglas.

Next Meeting will be in late February.

Submitted by Wendy Pratt