

Pleasants County Historical Society
Minutes of February 19, 2026

The Pleasants County Historical Society met on Thursday, February 19th at the Pleasants County Senior Center at 209 2nd Street, St. Marys, WV 26170. The meeting was called to order at 7 p.m. by President Dan Boley who led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a prayer to begin the meeting.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

The minutes of the December 18th meeting were sent by email to the membership for review by Sue Waggoner. Any corrections or changes were to be sent to her so that she could amend the minutes. The minutes were approved on a motion by Charley Elder and seconded by Gene Bell. Motion passed.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The treasurer's report was provided by Treasurer Charley Elder with a motion by Patty Bills to accept and second by Dave Eddy. Motion passed. The report will be filed with the minutes of this meeting. Since this was our first meeting in the new year, Charley collected annual dues for all members that did not have lifetime memberships. Dues are \$10/year. In January, Charley had received dues in the mail from the Creakbaums who are typically the first to pay each year.

DONATIONS

An H.A. Stanley Happiness Check Advertisement was donated by Tom Weekley.

CORRESPONDENCE

There was no relevant correspondence.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

DAR & OBITUARIES – Patty Bills

Patty shared a list of the latest obituaries that will be filed with the minutes. She shared the DAR conference would be held March 10-12th at the Greenbrier Resort. Patty said that the Pleasants County Commission would be erecting an E-board soon from a grant from the Governor's Office. She also encouraged everyone to participate in local celebrations for our 250th Anniversary.

RAISING HOPE TO PURPOSE – Caryl Bishop

Caryl & Dan shared that they had a meeting recently but still have not received their workers compensation insurance from the state. They have been waiting since last July, but when they do, they will begin to do projects. They are going to be able to provide \$10-15,000 for repair materials for the year for those that are income eligible and the repair need has been established as something essential for the participant.

MILITARY – Tom Bishop

Tom shared that they had a dinner meeting on February 5th and served 147 people breakfast on February 14th. They are going to have soups at their next meeting on March 5th and will serve breakfast again on March 14th. He encouraged everyone to attend. Bricks are once again available for Veterans for \$40 and will be placed at the Veterans Park.

AV EQUIPMENT – Dave Eddy

Mr. Eddy shared that there has been no activity.

MUSEUM –

Charley Elder shared that he has been working this winter on renovation of a buggy donated by Fred & Betty Byers in September. He power-washed it and had to replace the seat and then painted the wheels. It looked fantastic. Otherwise, nothing else has been happening with the farm museum during the snow and cold.

Pam McFarland shared that due to the lack of participation by the public that we would open the Second Street Museum on Memorial Day Weekend during the Alumni events this year.

OLD BUSINESS

- 1) President Boley provided information about Colonel Ruby Bradley who was the most decorated woman in American Military history when she retired. She had been a POW in Japan for much of WWII. The date he was able to secure the Marina was April 4th. He had talked with Casey, and he said that we could set up a table at the Galaxy on the weekends in March to sell tickets. He will be in touch to secure help selling the tickets. He plans to meet next week with the Oracle to get tickets printed. He also has secured the gym at the Spence Center if the Marina should flood again like it did a couple years ago.

NEW BUSINESS

None

PROGRAM

As part of the Show and Tell for the evening, everyone present shared a story about something significant to them from the past:

Carol Statler -shared a bell that was over 100 years old from her family & she believed that her dad had changed the clapper

Pam McFarland – read a letter from 1946 that her Uncle Harry had written to her dad that was the beginning of the S&S Service Station

Caryl Bishop explained some family history as to how her Mother, Ruby Alderman had inherited the Samberson estate thus she and Tom now own it with all the antiques. She shared pictures of some of the beautiful items.

Sue Waggoner shared the story of finding a small green box full of letters from her father in WWII to her mother. She gave a synopsis of his service and shared the story of Vmail used during the war.

Gene Bell shared a story of a heroic neighbor that had been on Baton during WWII with horrendous fighting. He was part of the Baton Death March that were exposed to inhuman treatment, but he survived to get on the ship to Japan where he barely survived the POW camp . His family thought he was dead, so Gene's mother was shocked to receive a call from him at Walter Reed Hospital to reach his family. He was so sad to hear that they had divorced.

Charley Elder shared a picture of a buggy from the 1800's that was donated by Frank & Betty Byers that he has refurbished by power washing, rebuilding the seat and painting the wheels. When he shared the picture with Betty at the Heritage she was thrilled.

Claude Rolston shared a large coal oil can encased in wood from his home place. Coal oil was the first oil in the 1800's. The wood cased can was in excellent condition. Mr. Bell shared that he had one but without the wood. Claude referenced Sue's Winter line book that explained the battle in Italy. He shared that when he was involved building a plant in Termoli, Italy that the metal pads and rails were still on the sand where they loaded & unloaded items from ships in WWII.

Alice Rolston shared a beautifully matted & framed vellum page from a 1400's prayer book written by the monks. The lettering was an absolute work of art and hard to imagine how such beautiful artistic & precisely spaced printing was possible at that time prior to the printing press. She had secured it from Marietta College.

Patty Bills shared copies of pictures of Sylvan Mills on Middle Island Creek, a train coming down Main Street and another picture of Main Street. She had received them from her family.

Tom Bishop shared a small and large washboard that had been made in Chicago. He shared it was obvious it had been well used. He also had two large wooden molds for glass that he had found at the Samberson estate.

Lane Ogdin brought a collection of his firemen hats. They were amazing. He had had a hat from the Original Hose Company made by Cairns that originated in 1836 and was still in business when he had them refurbish the hat he had with him today. It was amazing. He also had his brother's chief hat and a hat he used while in St. Marys and then in Sterling, Va. where he helped start a station for his community.

Dan Boley shared a stroller that was his wife, Marsha's since the 1940's and is still in good working condition even after moving to Pennsylvania and California then back.

Tim Sweeney provided a demonstration utilizing a black light to show his Fenton Vaseline glassware including some hobnail pieces of a toothpick jar, a small & large goblet & a cruet set. He also had a bell and a hen on nest of the Vaseline glassware that radiates a glow in the dark under a blacklight. He shared that it comes in yellow, green & blue. Fenton made Vaseline glassware from 1800's till it closed.

Dave Eddy shared a picture of his wife's family's Hoosier Cabinet that he has in his home. He displayed the spice jars and a large jar for coffee beans that were in the cabinet in the picture. He had a book about Hoosier cabinets and his was one in the book that sold for \$59 in the 1800's. He also explained a unique coffee grinder that he brought that had a finial on the top that you adjusted to not only grind coffee but spices as well. The little drawer was unique in that when you tipped it over it wouldn't fall out.

Adjournment

The group formally adjourned at 8:30 p.m. to allow for everyone to examine the items brought this evening and to future discuss them on an individual basis. Our next meeting will be on March 19th .

Those in attendance were:

Dan Boley, Charley Elder, Sue Waggoner, Dave Eddy, Caryl Bishop, Tom Bishop, Pat Bills, Carol Statler, Pam McFarland, Tim Sweeney, Alice Rolston, Claude Rolston, Lane Ogdin, & Gene Bell.