

Heart of America Chapter 36

Minutes of the December 11, 2011 Meeting



Guest speaker Mark Carr and his wife Marybeth

President Wayne Herrmann opened the meeting at 1:50 pm.

Guests were Mark Carr and his wife Marybeth; Alice, Steve, and Cindy Short. New members present were Karen Benson and Mac Dressler.

Minutes of the October Meeting as published in the December Newsletter were approved unanimously.

Treasurer Ruth Herrmann reported that the Chapter's October 9 balance of \$6,180.00 had grown by \$42.00 from two dues and 50/50 drawing, less \$641.80 for the year's meeting room rental and postage expenses, leaving a balance at this December Meeting of \$5,581.20. The Regional Account in October had a balance of \$17,974.04, less Ad expenses for January Bulletin of \$715.00 and 289.00 for workshop fee, but increased by interest of \$7.01, bringing the December Regional Account balance to \$16,977.05.

Jerry Thornsberry introduced Mark Carr from Cameron, MO, who presented the program on recovery of the stolen Thomas Claggett Tall Case Clock from 1720, that had stood in the Carr Family Homestead since the middle 1770's. Years of genealogical study revealed Mark's ancestry and their connection with Caleb Claggett, who came from Wales to Newport, R.I., about 1677. Caleb moved to Boston in 1700. His son William moved back to Newport in 1716.



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William had a son Thomas who experimented with electricity, made tower clocks and navigation instruments, and who made seven tall clocks in his lifetime, one of which stood in the Carr family's home from the eighteenth century until it was stolen about 35 years ago, in the late 1960's or early 1970's. Mr. Carr's sense of loss, and his love of antique furniture led him to seek a replacement for the missing clock, and an internet search located a Thomas Claggett clock offered for auction on ebay in the 1990's. Photos made available by the seller were remarkably similar to existing family pictures, especially the upper dial with its portrayal of scenery as viewed from the Carr home. During early negotiations the lady offering the clock for sale almost seemed to admit stealing it, but after obtaining legal counsel her position changed and it took a decade or more of legal, FBI, and police wrangling to get the clock back. NAWCC members provided advice on preservation and restoration and the movement was repaired in Kansas City. After considerable expenses for transportation and restoration, the clock once again stands in the family homestead, where Mr. Carr serves as curator.



Originally, a rocking ship (now missing) had adorned this scene.



The Carr family's recovered Thomas Claggett tall clock.

Bill Dugan, Chairman of the 2011 National Convention in Overland Park, Kansas, told us he has arranged for a gold leaf gilding workshop to be held in February, 2012.

Don Allen, Chairman of the River Cities Regional, reported all arrangements are made to host this Regional April 20-21 in the large building next door and the hotel at Crown Plaza in Lenexa, Kansas.

Wayne Herrmann urged members to participate in our individual Restoration Contest for the February Meeting, 2012.

Wayne Andrews, Chairman of the Nominating Committee, presented the slate of officers to take office for two years beginning January, 2012: Wayne Andrews as President; Bob Chester as Vice-President/education; Bill Maune as Vice President/programs; Florent Wm. Wagner as Secretary; and Ruth Herrmann as Treasurer. There being no other nominations, a unanimous vote was cast for these nominees.

Thanks to the generosity of the winner, the entire 50/50 pot (\$58.00) was donated to the education fund.

During Show and Tell, Digger Odell displayed his prize winning clock repair tools (photos on page 4), Dan Ward asked for help finding the correct rubber ring for an electric clock, Wayne Herrmann showed a statue repair made with J.B. Weld, and Greg Arey presented a single weight Vienna regulator with open escapement.

The meeting adjourned at 3:30 pm and cookies, a cake, and coffee were still available to enjoy.

Respectfully submitted,

Florent Wagner, Secretary