

Montevallo Historic Preservation Commission
Tuesday, October 12, 2021
6:30 p.m.
City Council Chambers
AGENDA

Members present:

- J Seaman
- J Lutz (chair)
- K King
- V Johnson (secretary)
- G Reese
- S Vallides (new member)
- A Sims (vice chair)

Call to Order: 6:30 pm

Approval of the minutes from previous meeting – no changes

- Motion: J Lutz
- Second: K King
- Motion passes: 6:38 pm

Old Business:

- African American Heritage Trail – Updates
 - K King presenting, describes a proposed five part series of articles for the Chamber Chatter (first part has just been published)
 - Articles will offer a view of historic African American Montevallo.
 - Methods: A. Sims collecting oral traditions and K King written records; together the two approaches are piecing together a more complete perspective
 - First article: history of Black business and entertainment
 - Second article: presentation of Joseph Prentis as religious leader. Sadly there are only two pictures that have been found – lack of photographic records has been a disappointment, if not unexpected
 - Third article: “Good and Useful Citizen” phrase taken from a 1937 semi retrospective (via *Shelby County Reporter*) of a life of remarkable public service
 - Property holder in Montevallo, 6 lots on Valley Street; 11.5 on Montevallo Aldrich Road
 - Registered voter
 - Fourth article: 11 children, and what they went on to do with their lives offer a wealth of possibilities
 - Fifth article: call / proposal for renaming Montevallo Middle School “Prentis Middle School”

- Discussion: regarding lack of photographs: J Seaman suggests consulting Obi and Jim Moore (of Moore Brothers Auto Shop), who possess a significant amount of glass photographic negatives taken in the Dogwood area (possibly a photographer in the Harrison house). From the floor (member of public, attending): a book mentioned that includes many prints from these glass negatives; upon query from V. Johnson, member of the public cannot recall title and author.
- Discussion: regarding potential sources of interest to MHPC and the public:
 - *The Heritage of Shelby County Alabama* (Vol. 58, Heritage of Alabama Series). Shelby County Heritage Book Committee (collective author), Heritage Publishing Consultants, Clanton, AL: 1999. Courtesy reference of a Worldcat link: <http://www.worldcat.org/oclc/42006444>
- Cemetery Project(s)
 - V Johnson updates new members on Montevallo City Cemetery digitization project (stalled by COVID-19 pandemic)
 - J Seaman updates on status of Powell Cemetery deed search: has found a PO box for the owner in Boonsboro, MD

New Business:

- New member introduction
 - Sherry Vallides, a prior member of the Montevallo Historic Preservation Commission, and member of the Historic Society
- Request from David Livesay (not presented in person):
 - Livesay proposes to repair damaged tombstone of Jane Wilson McQuirter (1800-1820), daughter of Jesse Wilson, a founder of Montevallo. Location: Montevallo City Cemetery. Reportedly oldest marker in the cemetery
 - Tombstone was damaged in a storm; descendants have no objection to repair or cleaning
 - Query from members regarding intentions: clarification from J. Seaman that Livesay is not asking for funds, permission, nor guidance - notification of intent
 - Members of MHPC suggest that Livesay make a courtesy check in with Public Works to ensure all possible regulations are met.
 - Discussion reveals that on-site repair / cleaning is intended, rather than replacement or off-site restoration

Adjournment: 7:02 pm

Motion: J Lutz

Second: G Reese