

MINUTES OF MEETING
65TH HAMBRIGHT FAMILY REUNION 2011
OCTOBER 11, 2011 AT THE CHRISTIAN LIVING CENTER OF THE
MACEDONIA BAPTIST CHURCH, KINGS MOUNTAIN, NC

The 65th Hambright Family Reunion was held on October 11, 2011 at the Macedonia Baptist Church, Christian Living Center, Kings Mountain. Following a period of visitation and fellowship, the meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. by President Eudora Anne Ratcliffe who welcomed family and guests. Members from each family group were asked to stand and be recognized.

A prayer of thanksgiving was given by Rita Hambright Gibbons, followed by the traditional picnic dinner.

Brochures featuring the Old Shiloh Cemetery, prepared by the Historic Shelby Foundation, Inc. (HFC), were handed out. This brochure contained a form which could be detached and sent with a tax deductible contribution to the Historic Shelby Foundation, Inc., to be used for the restoration and preservation of the Old Shiloh Presbyterian Church Cemetery where Col. Hambright and many descendants are buried.

Immediate Hambright Family Reunion past president, Janelle Dixon, brought us up-to-date on what was going on with the Shiloh Cemetery regarding a Nomination of Shiloh to be added to the National Register of Historic Places. She introduced the guest speaker, Jason Harpe of Harpe Consulting, Historic Preservation Consulting, Lincolnton, NC. Harpe's expertise is in historic preservation consulting and has been contracted by Dennis Dover of California to do research and prepare Applications for North and South Carolina Nominations to the National Trust for Historic Preservation. He emphasized to the group the importance of preservation of the Old Shiloh Presbyterian Church Cemetery. An Application had already been approved by South Carolina Department of Cultural Resources on July 22, as a few graves crosses the state line and are located in South Carolina. Harpe expects North Carolina's Application to go before the Department of Cultural Resources Committee on October 13. It would then go to the U.S. Department of the Interior to be approved by the National Park Service for inclusion to the National Register of Historic Places. For 14 years, Shiloh Presbyterian Church Cemetery has been on the Study List for Nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. It is rare that a cemetery would even be considered in this regard.

Harpe has also been working with the Historic Shelby Foundation, and HSF has acquired for Shiloh Cemetery a 501-3c tax exempt status. This means that your contributions to HSF for the cemetery will be tax exempt, and any funds collected by HSF would be used solely for repair, upkeep and restoration of the cemetery. Harpe spoke extensively on the Foundation and its activities.

Historic Shelby Foundation, Inc. was established in 1982 to protect and preserve the architectural and historic integrity that best defines Shelby and Cleveland County. HFC is a volunteer, nonprofit organization that promotes historic preservation as an investment in Shelby and North Carolina. Since 1982 it has been highly involved with many preservation projects and the nomination of properties to the National Register of Historic Places.

Shiloh is the oldest burying ground in the southeast section of Cleveland County. The cemetery is being nominated on the local level of significance because of the artistic merit of the gravestones motifs. It meets the National Register Criterion C as a small, rural church cemetery with gravestones of artistic value.

The majority of the gravestones possess the distinctive craftsmanship of noted stonecutters from the families of Caveny and Crawford of York County, South Carolina.

Contributions to Historic Shelby Foundation will be used solely for the purpose of restoration of gravestones and the cemetery upkeep. This would be a separate account from what has already been collected by Deborah Early who is presently in charge of the Hambright Family Reunion cemetery fund. A Shiloh Cemetery committee of Hambright descendant volunteers, under the direction of Historic Shelby Foundation, has been formed in order to make decisions in the future relationship with HSF for the preservation of the cemetery. Members of the Shiloh Cemetery Committee are: Dennis Dover, Janelle Dixon, Eudora Anne Ratcliffe, and Deborah Early. This committee would work with HSF to evaluate priorities. Membership to HSF is required of all these committee members and it would be helpful if a member of this committee would also serve on the HSF Board. Historic Shelby has already contributed \$500 to open the account for the cemetery.

Mr. Michael Trinkley, Ph.D., Director of Chicora Foundation, Inc., cemetery preservationist of Columbia, SC, has already made an assessment of work to be done for Shiloh on the grounds and repair of gravestones. It is likely that Chicora would be hired to do improvements and restorations. An assessment of each stone by stone is needed and would be made to determine the individual cost, and which one would take priority.

After a lengthy question and answer session, our speaker was thanked and the business session resumed.

First time attendees and those returning to the reunion after many years absence were recognized. Greeting cards were circulated for signing for Lorena Eaker, who has not been in recent good health, and also Berley Crosby who has not been able to attend the reunion for some time.

The minutes of the last meeting were read by Recording Secretary Joyce King Holcomb, and approved as read.

THE FOLLOWING WERE RECOGNIZED:

The oldest person present - Mr. Walter Ferguson, age 89 years

The youngest member present - Beau Mitchell, age 4 years

Those who traveled the greatest distance to be with us -

Linda Ferguson Krater, Arizona

Walter Ferguson, Florida

A silent prayer was observed in memory of the deceased:

Wofford Martin, Husband of Lois Hambright Martin; Mark Dixon; Megan King

TREASURER REPORT

Rita Hambright Gibbons, reunion Treasurer, passed around a collection basket to be used for reunion expenses.

Cemetery Funds - Deborah Early gave Expenses for 2011:

New Checks	\$ 8.00
Kerns Trkg, 2 loads stone	642.44
Top Soil & Fertilizer	<u>186.49</u>
Total Expenses	\$ 836.93
REMAINING BALANCE	\$2,241.50

HISTORIAN REPORT

Marjorie Gossage announced the website at www.colfrederickhambright.org has had 916 hits (this does not include revisits) and recognized Lee Gossage for his development of the website. She also stated that all of Lorena Eaker's genealogy records, books, etc. have been donated to the Lincoln County Library.

CEMETERY

Doyt Phifer spoke of the past use of volunteers for maintenance of Shiloh Cemetery and announced that Stella King Ledford and her husband, Charles, had done a great job keeping Shiloh Cemetery in good condition. Charles has cut up four or five large trees which had fallen, and for the past two years they have weeded, seeded, and raked the grounds.

The front gate of the cemetery was stolen back in March. The Cleveland County Sheriff's Department was notified and, after inquiries, it could not be determined who took it. As a will of good gesture, Southern Electric, owner of the property that surrounds the cemetery and the company that installed the cemetery fence, offered to replace and install another gate. A new gate has now been installed and keys have been made and distributed to those who would most likely need one.

HAMBRIGHT DNA

A copy of an email from Hambright descendant, William Stewart, was sent to those members on the Hambright mailing list who have an email address. Stewart is encouraging the Hambright descendants to participate in the matrilineal DNA testing to learn more about our heritage. To find out more about your Hambright matrilineal DNA, contact Wm. Stewart or www.familyreedna.com/public/hambright/default.aspx

"A HOBO ODYSSEY"

Another Hambright descendant, Larry Nichols, has authored and published a historical novel "A Hobo Odyssey" which is now in print and available for purchase. Larry grew up in the Cramerton area and this novel is based on stories he heard from his father while growing up. It is about a York County family and two young men who became hoboes during the Great Depression of the 1930s. Larry has written six books on various family histories and authored such books on: Nichols, Dillingham, Nivens (co-authored with Douglas Sigmon), Chariker/Charriker/Karcher, McCarter, Quinn, and Falls, all of which have roots in York County, SC and the surrounding area. Larry is now busy with book signings. Learn more about this book and Larry's writings on www.larrynicholsbooksandmusic.us/.

The President announced that the next reunion date will fall late into the month of October, the 14th. A discussion followed and it was moved and accepted to observe our **next year's Hambright Reunion on Sunday, October 7, 2012** to coincide with the activities at the Kings Mountain Battleground.

There was no further business and the meeting was adjourned. **The next HAMBRIGHT REUNION will be held at the same place next year on Sunday, October 7, 2012.**

Joyce King Holcomb
Recording Secretary