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Barton Historical Society

Our purpose is:

- to conduct genealogical research on the Barton family.
- assemble, preserve, and distribute this information.
- establish appropriate memorials.
- and to promote brotherhood, fellowship, and pride of family.

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Barton Historical Society Newsletter

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"East Texas" WE HAVE ARRIVED April 19-22, 2012

The Barton Historical Society Reunion was held in Longview, Texas, with check-in at the Wingate Hotel on Thursday evening, and a full day of touring by chartered bus on Friday. Evelyn Banda coordinated all visits to places of historical significance and important family ties.

A short ride to Marshall, Texas included the actual site along U.S. Highway 80 where her great-grandfather J. Benjamin Barton was hanged in 1843 by a band of highway robbers. We also saw the beautiful and historic Harrison County courthouse in downtown Marshall, where part of the family estate was settled. Evelyn informed us that this old courthouse square is beautifully decorated during most of the month of December and well worth a visit if you are in the area.

We then returned to Longview, and rode through the campus of LeTourneau University, which had been established as Harmon General Hospital (a German prisoner-of-war camp) in 1942. Several members of our group related family ties to both the World War II hospital compound and also to the campus after it became a college.

Next stop was the Gregg County Historical Museum, where a docent walked us through many displays of photographs and artifacts related to the history of the area. Many of these items brought back memories to several of our group from bygone days in Longview and Kilgore.

Our tour then continued to the New London Museum where we were told the story of the school explosion of the New London School on March 18, 1937. Estimates of fatalities generally exceed 300 students and teachers, but due to the transient nature of roughnecks who were working in the new oil fields, it is unknown what the actual enrollment was on any day. It is known that there were two Barton children killed in the explosion. We then had lunch in the Tea Room at the museum before proceeding on to the East Texas Oil Museum on the campus of Kilgore College.

We were told of the history of the discovery of the East Texas oil field and again saw many relics of life in Kilgore in the early 1930s. A quick stop in the Danville Cemetery provided some to visit the graves of Barton ancestors. Just a short drive down the road took us to Evelyn's beautiful home in the country where we were treated to pizza, salad, and dessert before returning to the hotel. We had had a full day of touring in intermittent refreshing rain. Many thanks to Evelyn!

The Barton Historical Society Meeting of 2012

President Terry Barton called the meeting to order shortly after 9:00 a.m. in the Conference Room of the Wingate Wyndham Hotel in Longview, Texas. He made introductions and expressed gracious thanks to Evelyn Banda and Peggy Nouri for the organization and arrangements of this year's meeting.

Bette Pitman gave a brief report, submitted by Harold Turner, on findings of cemetery locations and residences of Bailey Barton's family members in South Carolina.

Terry gave his updated report on our Barton DNA project, always with very interesting findings while maintaining appropriate confidential data.

Following a lunch break, the afternoon Business Session included the reading and approval of minutes from the meeting held in October, 2010, and the explanation of a virtual Board Meeting concluded in May 2011 to amend the Barton Historical Society By-Laws. (See text of the amendment at right.) A treasurer's report was not available due to the last minute absence of the treasurer.

However, due to a general understanding of available funds, it was proposed and authorized for the purchase of 15 DNA kits while on sale for utilization in the Barton DNA project.

Peggy Nouri reported that the Barton Recipes project is seeking additional recipes before the book can go to press.

There was extensive discussion relative to a research trip to England with an invitation for additional participants. Please contact either Terry Barton or Peggy Nouri.

Approval was given for the planning of the next reunion to be in the Tigerville, South Carolina area in October, 2013, to be followed by a reunion in Arkansas in April, 2015.

A Nominations Committee report offered a slate of new officers to include Peggy Nouri, President; Terry Barton, Vice President, Kathy Barton Gerwig, Secretary; and Deborah Lee, Treasurer. No additional nominations from the floor, so slate was elected by acclamation.

Terry Barton expressed sincere appreciation to Gary Barton for his five years of service as editor of the newsletter, and for his continuation as manager of the Barton Database.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:45.

Another genealogy website – MyGenShare.com – is coming, and although at this time I cannot attest to its merits, it looks promising as another venue for research.

You can go to that site now and sign-up for their launch date.

Amendment to the By-Laws
Approved: 16 May 2011

Article IV – Board of Directors
Add Section 6 – Vacancies

When an elected officer vacancy on the Board exists mid-term, the President shall appoint an interim replacement to fill out the particular elected officer's term.

As July 4 draws near,
our day of celebration of
American Independence,
let's all reflect
upon the contributions and
sacrifices of our
Barton ancestors and
their families.