

## Princeton Historical Commission

February 16, 2023

Attendees: Matthew Lindberg - chair, Carl Soderberg - vice chair, Larry Todd - clerk, Tom Kokernak

Guest: Gina Polewaczyk who has an interest in joining the commission.

The meeting opened at 7:01 pm.

The meeting minutes of 1/19/23 were approved as written.

Matt asked the members of the commission to choose the chair, vice chair and clerk for the new year; Tom was nominated and voted as chair, Carl remained vice chair and Larry remained clerk.

**Civil War Plaques:** Tom recently attended the second meeting of the memorial day committee. The names of those who died in military service are read at the memorial day gathering; Tom asked that the name of George Keyes be added to this group because he was killed in battle during the Civil War but his name is not on the plaques. A motion was made and approved to add his name.

There was extended discussion of the research Tom and Larry have been doing. They have each compared the names on the plaques, 80 in all, to the names listed in Blake's history of Princeton; his list has a total of 130 names. Larry explained of the difference of 50 names, Blake has an additional 25 who definitely served in the civil war and the others include 6 who deserted, a number who enlisted but never were assigned to a military unit and some who cannot be accounted for.

Larry said his research of town records in Bagg Hall showed when the town meeting proposed the first article in April of 1861 regarding the civil war: to appropriate a sum of money not to exceed \$3000 for the enlistment and drilling of any citizen who may enlist into any volunteer company.

Larry also found reference to a committee established in April of 1886 to work on

tablets to recognize the civil war soldiers and a sum of not more than \$200 was approved for this.

Larry also mentioned there is a website called FOLD3 which is probably the best collection of military information available, but it is expensive to join. However, they offer a free one week trial and Larry suggested he and Tom each use a trial week to do reserach. Tom said there are detailed records of regimental history available through the state.

Tom gave an example of the kind of information we may find - one of the 4 Estabrook soldiers who was probably only 16 when he enlisted survived for less than a month before he died of a desease.

Carl asked if we could make a map showing where some of the Princeton men were during the war and relate it to their histories. He also suggested a summary of data such as age distribution and number of recruits in a family. Tom and Larry will send information to Carl.

Could we also make the school aware of our research about the civil war ?

Boston Post cane - what is it and where is it ? There was discussion about this but it seems the Princeton cane is missing.

Matt introduced Gina Polawaczyk who is interested in joining the commission. A motion was made and approved that the commission recommend the selectboard appoint Gina to the Princeton historical commission.

The next meeting will be (remote) on Thursday, March 16 at 7pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 8pm.

Respectfully submitted, Larry Todd, clerk

