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Cedar Oaks Guild Newsletter

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## Newsletter, September 2024

Cedar Oaks Guild

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CEDAR OAKS GUILD NEWSLETTER  
September, 2024



Cedar Oaks Guild began the 2024-25 year with a potluck salad luncheon September 10. The dining table was laden with delicious salads, and a variety of desserts. Keri Dibrell led the business meeting after lunch, and welcomed our newest members **Lauren Raper, Terri Neese, and Paula Estes. Sally Shellabarger Worsham** has also resumed membership in the Guild.



Several guests attended the meeting. Claudia Gleason brought **Kathy Pearson**, who was a member of the Cosmopolitan Club, one of the groups that started Cedar Oaks Guild. Marion Tutor's guests were **Deborah Freeland and Cindy Stocks.**



Kathy and Claudia



Marion and Deborah



Cindy and Marion

Since our treasurer Carla Johnson was out of town, Lynne McIngvale collected dues and donations for candy for Halloween Trick or Treat. If you haven't yet paid **dues of \$25**, you can pay at the October meeting or mail a check to Cedar Oaks Guild, P. O. Box 351, Oxford.

**Abi Rayburn** reported that the committee working on the transfer of Cedar Oaks presented their requests to the city, and almost all were turned down. The committee has done research looking for guidance but only found possible (future) grants. More meetings are planned seeking guidance to move forward in the best direction for Cedar Oaks Guild.

**Janis Walling, Lynne McIngvale, and Patti Rish**, with their new best friend Robert (*Robert's Rules of Order!*) have spent countless hours updating the Bylaws, and have nearly completed their work. They are also updating the Procedures Manual so that it will correspond to the Bylaws. Both documents will be presented to the Guild in the near future.

Hostess chair **Tricia Copelin** distributed schedules for the upcoming year, and gave pointers for the committees. Hostess groups should decide arrangements for food costs among themselves. Receipts must be submitted to the head hostess in a timely manner if the committee decides to divide the costs equally. Many seasonal decorations which hostesses can use are available in the storage closet.

**Marianna Ochs**, Docent Chair, reported that we've had a number of visitors recently, including two people from New South Wales, Australia! The house continues to be open Fridays 1:00-4:00, or by appointment. Cedar Oaks is a great place to take your out-of-town visitors!

Volunteers have been working diligently on the Archives, organizing old documents, photographs, newspaper clippings, and publicity items.



Besides working on Bylaws, Archives, and other committees, Patti Rish presented a plan for a series of fall lectures because “we have stories to tell.” The first lecture, “**The House That Would Not Die**” would focus on the rich history of the house, including the burning of the Square in 1864 and its move to Murray Street. Another lecture, “**Those Extraordinary Women**,” could highlight the women who toiled for over 60 years to preserve Cedar Oaks for the Oxford community.

Patti also introduced a new Finance Committee, and had sign-up sheets for other standing committees: Archives, docents, publicity, finance, fundraising, landscape, furniture projects, and management of the house. Signup sheets will also be available at the October meeting.

One of our most popular activities is **Halloween Trick or Treating**, to be held on Sunday, October 27. Sharon Schreiber requested volunteers for a planning committee. Members to help with specific tasks will be recruited at the October meeting. The community really enjoys Trick or Treating at Cedar Oaks. Last year we had more than 450 visitors! We must limit the number of people giving out candy to control costs, but everyone is encouraged to dress in costume, welcome visitors and participate in the fun. Purchasing candy in bulk from discount sources such as Costco is more cost effective, and makes it easier to sort candy so that children receive a variety of treats. We will pass the pumpkin for donations again next month.



A **Christmas Open House** will be held on December 8. Janis Walling has volunteered to oversee this event.

**In Sympathy** We were saddened to learn of the passing of emerita member Ann Proffer and we extend sympathy to her family. Ann was active in Cedar Oaks Guild for many years.



**Get Acquainted With Paula Estes:** I moved to Oxford from Natchez where I was a member of the Pilgrimage Garden Club and the Historic Natchez Cemetery Association. I enjoy volunteering with all historical efforts. I worked as an accountant in the business world for 42 years and I haven't retired, yet!

### Happy September Birthday

Suzanne Atkins September 9

Carolyn Lott September 10

Emily Holmes September 11

Patti Rish September 13

Donna Pierce September 24



## Cedar Oaks Treasure: Pictures of the Bairds

Cedar Oaks was a family home for more than a century. We had been able to acquire many pictures of the families who lived in the house during that time, except for Dr. William H. and Addie Baird, 1894-1903. The Bairds and Dr. Baird's role in the yellow fever epidemic were featured in the January and February, 2022 newsletters.

At that time, I could not find an obituary for Dr. Baird. The Oxford Eagle published his obituary on March 12, the next edition following his death.

DR. W. H. BAIRD.

Dr. W. H. Baird died at the home of his daughter, Mrs. J. E. Pope, in Jackson, Tenn., Thursday night of last week after a lingering illness. The remains were brought to Oxford Friday, and interred in St. Peter's cemetery Saturday afternoon, Rev. W. D. Heddleston conducting the services. Dr. Baird and family moved to Oxford from the Delta about fifteen years ago. He was considered one of the ablest physicians of North Mississippi, and his practice was extensive. During the epidemic of yellow fever in Oxford, in 1898, Dr. Baird remained at his post of duty, faithful to every charge. For a number of years he was Health officer of LaFayette county, and in this position also, never shirked a duty no matter how disagreeable or dangerous. He leaves four sons and two daughters to mourn his loss. To them the EAGLE extends the deepest sympathy.

Oxford Eagle, March 12, 1903 p.3

The same paper announced that P. E. Matthews had purchased the house.

Mr. P. E. Matthews has bought the residence of the late Dr. W. H. Baird, and will put it in thorough repair, and ready for occupancy in the fall.

Just received, new Gingham

I tried to identify living descendants to hopefully obtain an old family photo. My search ended with the death of their daughter, Susan McLemore Baird Humphrey, in 1974. Then I began searching for descendants of W. H. and Addie's siblings, Robert W. and Maggie Baird. As with the Turner and Orr families, siblings married siblings – W. H. and Robert were Baird brothers, Addie and Maggie McLemore sisters.

Robert and Maggie's daughter, Marion Clendenen Baird Moor, had a son Robert "R.B." Moor. R B.'s online obituary in 2011 listed his surviving children. Last summer I was able to contact his daughter, Mary Linda Moore, who had recently retired as Family and Consumer Sciences Agent with the Mississippi State University Extension Services in Corinth. She is the great-great niece of W. H. and Addie Baird, and the great granddaughter of Robert and Maggie Baird. Ms Moore phoned me and graciously shared photographs and information on her ancestors. The house was actually purchased by Robert Baird in 1894 and sold to Addie the following year for \$2,000. Ms Moore could only speculate on the reasons for that arrangement.

She thought that the large photograph of the Baird and McLemore families was taken about 1888-1900.



Ms Moore identified several people in the picture:



Addie and W.H., right side



Daughter Mary Baird, next to Addie



Son McLemore Baird next to W.H.



Daughter Susan Baird Humphrey

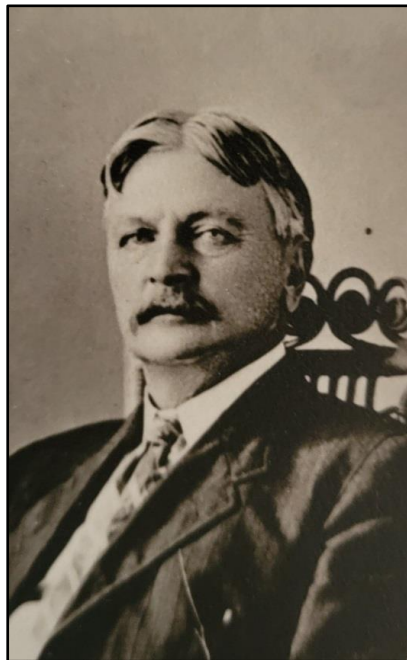


Son Geren Baird

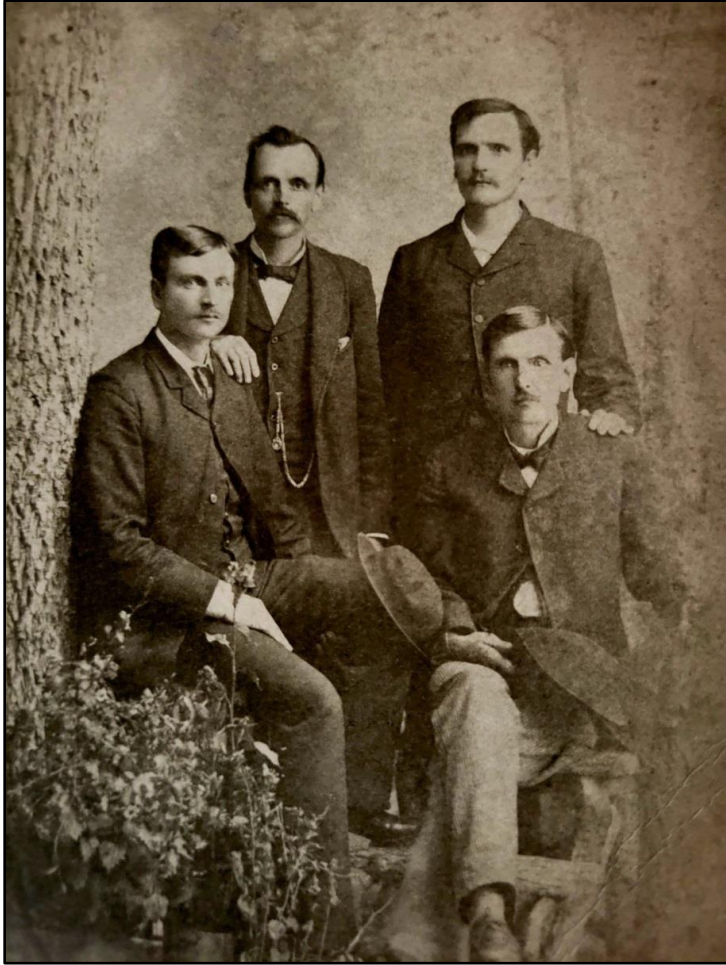


Son Willie Baird

She also sent photographs of her great grandfather Robert Wade Baird, and of the four Baird brothers, taken some time after the Civil War:



Robert Wade Baird



Standing, left to right: Joseph and William Seated, left to right: Robert and John

All four brothers served in the Confederate Army. John was a sharpshooter; his papers are in the Mississippi State University Archives.

Marianna Ochs has put pictures of the Bairds in the meeting room. While we would still love to have pictures of others, especially Laura Turner and son Hezekiah, we can now display images of most of the people who called Cedar Oaks home.

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R. B. Moore Obituary <https://www.wilsonandknight.com/obituary/1140417>

*Cedar Oaks Guild Newsletters* January and February 2022

<https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/> *Oxford Eagle*, March 12, 1903

Sharon Schreiber, Newsletter Editor