

# JESSAMINE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

March 31, 2008

---

## The President's Corner

I am completely new at this, just having taken office on January 1, 2008. It is a tough act to follow all the previous officers of the JCHS who have served so well. Since our out-of-town members and other interested readers need an update, with the help of several of our members, we hope to issue a quarterly newsletter. This is our first edition. Please be patient with our efforts.

Happy Spring!

Bill Davidson

---

### **2008 - 2009 Officers of the Jessamine County**

#### **Historical Society:**

President - Bill Davidson (859-858-3127/  
patbilky1@aol.com)

Charlie Hamm - Vice President (859-885-6240)

Bill Russell - 2nd Vice President (859-215-3155/  
res0ynb@alltel.net )

Patricia Hunt - Secretary (859-272-0430/  
pwhunt27@aol.com)

Tommye Davidson - Treasurer (859-858-3127/  
tommyedavidson@aol.com)

#### **Board of Directors:**

Howard Teater (2008) hcteater@windstream.net

Frank Guthrie (2008-2010) ggcat@insightbb.com

Inez Russell (2008-2009) res0ynb@alltel.net

Present Officers (2008-2009)

#### **Committees (2008 - 2009):**

*Calling:* Howard Teater

*Cemetery:* Charlie & Ernestine Hamm

*Correspondence & Research:* Ernestine Hamm

*Finance:* Bill Davidson, Bill Russell, Howard Teater, Dr. David McMurtry, Alice Hills

*Food:* Tommye Davidson, Inez Russell

*Bower 5th Book:* Bill Russell, Tommye Davidson

*Newsletter:* Tommye Davidson

## Meetings

The JCHS meets at 7:00 on the 4th Thursday of every month except in November and December. Informal meetings are held every Thursday afternoon from 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m., at which time research may be done. All meetings are held at the JCHS office in Farmers Square unless otherwise announced.

Meetings for the next quarter are scheduled for April 24th, May 22nd and June 19th. The exception in June on the 3rd Thursday is for the 9th annual Jess Fest which will be held on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, June 19, 20 and 21, 2008. Everyone is invited to attend to see Jessamine County and do any research they wish. The JCHS office will be open on Thursday and Friday and local members will be in the office to assist members and guests.

## Cemetery Update

The Ison and Bryant families would like information on their six family members who died in the 1932 flood. They would like to mark the graves that are supposedly in the Maple Grove Cemetery where their death certificates record they are buried. Please advise the JCHS if you have any information.

Ernestine Hamm, Cemetery Committee Chair, hopes to restore the Samuel Offutt Cemetery in Tates Creek Trailer Park. This cemetery is connected to Abraham Lincoln who was employed at one time by Denton Offutt, which story is told in "The Little Trader from Hickman Creek" in the book

# JESSAMINE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

March 31, 2008

Lincoln and the Bluegrass by William H. Townsend.

Howard Teater has received permission to restore the Jasper Griffing Cemetery on the Glass family farm located on US Hwy 27 South near Camp Nelson.

The Revolutionary War tombstone for Thomas Rickett has been received and boy scouts will help us finish restoring the Rickett/Davis Cemetery, his burial place. Sam Wingate will receive his Eagle Scout Badge for this project.

The fallen tree in the Crockett Cemetery has been cleared. Ernestine will get bids to repair the iron fence on which it fell. Bids will also be taken from a couple of reputable professional tree removal companies for a standing dead tree that needs to be removed.

The JCHS will try to get a stone for Mr. James Hervey, who died in 1888 and is buried in the Lexington Cemetery, by next year. Mr. Hervey, a banker, owned several acres in Nicholasville where he built affordable homes for the black population. The area was called "Hervey Town" for many years.

Ernestine showed a video at the January meeting of the very old Dickerson Cemetery on Union Mill Pike. Hopefully, more stones will be found and then a fence put up.

## Miscellany

The new welcome signs for Nicholasville have been corrected to read "Founded 1798, Incorporated 1812." This is a big

accomplishment for the Jessamine County Historical Society.

We are grateful for the free rent from Lanny Dale and the Farmers Bank over several years so we continue to try to fix the water leak in the front office.

A letter has been received from the John Fox, Jr. Genealogical Library of the Kentucky Society DAR located at Duncan Tavern Historical Center in Paris, KY, thanking the JCHS for its donation of the Jessamine County Revolutionary War Soldier Location Index. Our thanks to member Alice Hills for her suggestion of this donation and for sharing her research work on Revolutionary War Soldiers.

At the January monthly meeting, members approved submitted signage proofs for our neighbor business, First Insurance Group, to be placed on the front of the building and at their front door. The Nicholasville City board asked that they seek our approval.

Billy Jackson Bower 5th Book update -- a manuscript was submitted to the illustrator the first part of March. No more action on our part is required unless requested.

## 2008 JCHS History Fest

The 9th Annual History Fest will be held this year on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, June 19, 20, and 21. The June JCHS monthly meeting has been changed from the 4th Thursday evening of the month to Thursday, June 19 at 7:00 p.m. at the office (address below) to allow visitors to the Jess Fest to attend.

# JESSAMINE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

March 31, 2008

A Saturday picnic luncheon will be held at 11:30 a.m. at the Good Samaritan Lodge in Keene. Please contact JCHS by May 31 to reserve your catered lunch which will be \$6.50 per person. Everyone will have an opportunity to bid in the Silent Auction. We appreciate any donations you wish to make to the Silent Auction and appreciate any bids you make on items of your choice!

After the picnic, all are invited to the Jessamine County Public Library, 600 South Main Street, Nicholasville, at 1:30 p.m. where the JCPL and the JCHS will co-sponsor skits on "Early Explorers and Pioneers of Jessamine County." Among other performers, some JCHS members will portray in period costumes Jessamine Countians who played a very important role in our settlement prior to 1783. In addition, early Kentucky rifles plus Indian artifacts found in Jessamine County will be on display. If you are unable to attend after the luncheon, there will be a morning session of these skits, starting at 10:00 a.m. Dr. Dean Richards, a member of the JCHS, is heading this effort. Some plans are still underway, so check with the JCHS later for any changes that might be necessary.

## Major Donations

- *A large library collection* donated by Juanita Baker of Jessamine County.
- *Bookcase* to hold most of the collection of these books by Bill and Tommy Davidson.
- *Mahin Family Collection* from Betty Caress, Bob Wilson, et al, a christening dress, tablecloth, other linens, and miscellaneous items.
- *Photo of Elizabeth Crockett*, wife of Dr. Joseph Crockett, donated by Howard Teater.
- *Daniel Bryan, Nephew of Daniel Boone: His Narrative and Other Stories*, a book by Kathryn H. Weiss #31/120, donated by Dr. David McMurtry, devoted JCHS member.
- *Jessamine Jamboree Records and photos (19 notebooks)* from Jessamine County Chamber of Commerce.
- *1827 Sanborn Map of Nicholasville* from Jessamine County Chamber of Commerce.
- *Slides of Jessamine County (mostly Nicholasville)* from Jessamine County Chamber of Commerce.
- *Life in the Bluegrass, A Pictorial History 1940 - 1970* published by the Lexington Herald-Leader, 10 copies donated by Bill and Jenny Adams, Pediment Publishing, Minnesota, publisher of the book.
- *Cliff Cottage and Its Families*, a notebook donated by Dr. Dean Richards.
- *Red Oak School and Lyne School*, framed Howard Fain prints, *photo of Nicholasville class of 1944* and *other items* donated by Kathy Hall.
- *World War II uniform* donated by Tracy Lucas of Camp Nelson.
- *1973 Jessamine Journal* newspaper donated by Emaline Rhorer.
- *Searchable CDs of "The Kentucky Explorer"* magazine from 1986 through 2001 by Bill and Tommy Davidson.
- *Kirby sweeper/shampooer* donated by Bill and Tommy Davidson.

# JESSAMINE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

March 31, 2008

- *Camp Nelson Honor Guard CD and pictures of the Centre College, Danville, KY, football team that defeated Harvard in 1921 and their Queen Float in 1812* by Tracy Lucas, Camp Nelson, KY. Google Centre College Football for the story on the Centre-Harvard game.
- 30 *fund-raising candy bars* sold at \$1.00 each donated by Pat Hunt.

### Meetings This Quarter:

**January 24:** As usual, the January meeting was strictly a business meeting for planning this year.

**February 28:** In honor of Black History Month, several members recalled their fond memories of local black friends and acquaintances. Some of the persons so honored were Willie Bell Turpin Yates, Rev. James M. Baker, Joe Pellman, Walter Prentice, Jonah Crutcher, James O. Hervey, Mattie Brown, Julia Hayes, Leslie Rowe and Jimmy Winkfield. Hearing these memories are appreciated and will become a part of our oral history files.

**March:** We had a wonderful local speaker, Mary Lou Byrd, former columnist for the Jessamine Journal, the Salyersville Independent, the Pikeville, KY, newspaper and the Plains, GA, newspaper, among others. Mary has had a very interesting life since her upbringing in a large and poor family in Magoffin County in Eastern Kentucky. Not only is Mary a wonderful writer, but her dear mother was, too. All those attending the meeting enjoyed Mary's recollections and the readings her mother left her. We keep urging Mary to write a

book (or several books) and she says she will. *We are waiting, Mary!*

### Tribute to Howard Fain (1934 - 2007)

A long time JCHS member, Howard was a beloved author and artist and his work is found in all 50 states as well as several foreign countries. He was owner and operator of the Howard Fain Gallery in Nicholasville from 1968 to 1997 and he continued working from his home until his retirement in 1999. His Kentucky American print was released for America's 200th birthday. Churches, schools, and historic buildings were his favorite subjects. He published over 400 pieces of art in limited edition and did more than 650 private commissions for collectors all over the world. Our hearts go out to his wife, Ruth Ann, and the rest of his family. He is sorely missed by many who knew and loved him.

Beginning with the first quarter 2008 issue, the JCHS Quarterly Newsletter will appear on our website which is maintained by Jo Arnspiger at [www.jesshistorical.org](http://www.jesshistorical.org) and also will be published on our "JessList." Please join our jesslist by contacting Terry Todd at [jesslist@tlodd.com](mailto:jesslist@tlodd.com).

If you have additions or corrections to this newsletter, please write to Bill Davidson, 198 Academy Drive, Wilmore, KY 40390.

The Jessamine County Historical Society is a non-profit educational society recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt charitable organization. Donations to JCHS may be tax-deductible.

Distributed April 11, 2008