

# JESSAMINE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

March 31, 2009

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## The President's Corner

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Dear Friends and Members –

The first quarter is kicking off with big plans being made for the 2009 Jess Fest. This is the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and we are hoping a lot of our members and friends will be able to attend any or all days Thursday through Saturday, June 25, 26 and 27 (more below).

This quarter, our Society met on January 22, February 26 and March 26. The Newsletter is running late, but these are the dates covered here.

Bill 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 at 216 North Main Street in Farmers Square unless otherwise announced. Everyone is invited!

The monthly meetings for the second quarter of 2009 are scheduled for April 23, May 28 and June 25. We hope you can attend!

Additionally, something new is being tried by volunteers who will keep the office open every Thursday from 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 for persons who wish to come by to do research.

## 2008 - 2009 Officers of the Jessamine County Historical Society:

President - Bill Davidson (859-858-3127/ pat-bilky1@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 (2009) 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

## Jess Fest 2009

The 10<sup>th</sup> annual Jess Fest will be held Thursday through Saturday, June 25, 26 and 27. The office will be open on Thursday and Friday and a \$5.00 per person cookout luncheon with all the trimmings is planned at the "Old Jail" on Main Street in Nicholasville on Saturday. Some may wish to dine al fresco on the front porch and maybe some in the cells. Wherever you eat, we're all looking for a good time and fellowship.

The regular June 25<sup>th</sup> monthly meeting will be held at 7:00 p.m. at our office in Farmers Square. This is the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the JCHS and we want to honor our charter members. We hope you can attend!

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## Cemetery Update by Ernestine Hamm

In January of 2009 Jessamine County was hit by a large ice storm, taking down some of our cemetery trees and fences. Due to the county-wide damage, we are checking all 53 cemeteries that we have restored. We have been clearing debris and mending fences. The John 2/9 Scott cemetery fence was down long enough for the cattle to get in and turn over a stone. We have done an emergency fence mend but will repair fence and reset stone.

The Gregg/McCampbell cemetery is almost finished; we just have a few stones to repair.

There has been a new stone found for Martha Gregg (wife of James Gregg) at the cemetery on Old Railroad Road.

The Thomas Overstreet stone has arrived and we will have a dedication service during our 2009 History Fest on Friday, June 26, at 1:00 p.m. In this cemetery, we have found a stone for Thomas Arnsperger who died August 20, 1850. We believe this is the son of Gabriel and Malinda Arnsperger. Malinda sold the property for the Bethel Christian Church on January 6, 1873. We also found a Cynthia Potts, wife of J. M. Potts, and a set of Claybourn twins. If you have any information on any of these families, we would appreciate a copy.

We have started work on the Campbell/Wilmore cemetery and hope to get more done this year. This cemetery was hit by a tornado a few years ago and has very large trees that have to be removed. It also has a lot of stone damage that will need repair.

We are still waiting to hear from the cemetery grant we applied for in November 2008. This grant will be used to fence the Samuel Hunter cemetery, repair and reset stones and place a marker there to tell the Hunter family history.

If you have any information on any of these cemeteries or would like to make a donation to further our cemetery work, please send to Ernestine Hamm at the Jessamine County Historical Society, 216 N. Main Street (Farmers Square), Nicholasville, KY 40356.

A correction to the 3Q08 Newsletter is that the family did not get a marker for John A. Brooks and his wife. The JCHS marked the cemetery with our sign stating the name as the *John A. Brooks Cemetery*.

Thanks for all your support. Hope to see you at the History Fest 2009!

-Ernestine Hamm

## Donations Received

- Jessamine Women's Club programs by Mary Ruth Johns.
- China plate with Jessamine County Courthouse painting by Mary Ruth Johns.
- Book on the Crockett family and connecting lines by Mr. B. W. Henderson.
- Simeon and Martha Frost stone marker by Gary Bunch and Julie Harkin.
- Five boxes of Carter family research by the Carter family. Research was done by Carroll S. Carter, Jr.
- Cobb family history by Larry Lewis.

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- Ghost Railroads by Glen Wilson.
- Books on John W. and Malinda Harris Brumfield, George W. and Sarah Jane Preston Watts, John Wesley (Creek John), Francena Baker Reynolds, David W. Brumfield and Nancy Wade Ferrell Brumfield by Paul Watts.
- Book on the Union Lodge No. 10 Independent Order of Odd Fellows written by Robert M. Suell by Pat Hunt.

## Meetings This Quarter:

### January 22, 2009 -

The Cemetery Report is postponed until next month as Ernestine Hamm was unable to attend the meeting due to foot surgery.

Mr. Gary Bunch and Ms. Julie Harkins were given plaques in appreciation for their donation of the Simeon Frost and wife's stone marker. Mr. Harkins accepted the plaque on behalf of Mr. Bunch who was unable to attend.

The 5<sup>th</sup> Billy Jackson Bower book needs some research done before going to print. The book has been edited to 28 pages, the same as Ms. Bower's previous four books. It is hoped the book will be completed within the next few months.

### February 26, 2009 -

The Minutes were read and Treasurer's Report presented. We are spending more than we are taking in so suggestions are welcome on money-making projects or a way of gene-

rating donations and then someone to spearhead the project(s).

It is still up in the air as to how many 5<sup>th</sup> Billy Bower books to print. The Society feels that 2,000 are many more than we can handle although the cost per each is less. Book sales are way down and we need to base our number of copies on our real sales. Ms. Keig, Billy's sister, is working directly with the artist in Berea for art work on the cover.

Ernestine Hamm, Cemetery Committee Chair, has applied for funds from the Jessamine County Fiscal Court to help maintain cemeteries in the County. A stipend of \$1,000.00 per year has been received yearly. It is hopeful this year it again will be at least that much. Spring cleaning work will begin on the Welch Cemetery. Trees are being cut at the Farrell Cemetery and stones are being repaired at the Gregg/McCampbell Cemetery. Application for a \$1,400 grant at the Hunter Cemetery is being made; Joseph Hunter was the first white child born in Jessamine County.

Ernestine displayed a small diary she made to donate for the Mary Todd Lincoln doll that travels with the Kentucky Abraham Lincoln display.

Ernestine also stated that the Historical Society is in need of donations to be used to restore the large oil painting of Bennett Young which is deteriorated.

Members voted to continue to allow the Daughters of the American Revolution to use our facility the first Saturday of every month. Tommye Davidson will stay at the office during their meetings.

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It was voted that our office remain open on Thursdays to allow longer hours for research. Hours are 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

This year's History Fest (Jess Fest) was discussed. It is special because it is the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Society and the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Jess Fest. We will use the Old Jail for a cookout luncheon on Saturday for \$5.00 per person. We will wait to see how many people attend the Fest before deciding whether or not to have an auction.

Larry Lewis will be the official photographer at JCHS events, including the Jess Fest.

George Brumfield attended the meeting and was congratulated on his 91<sup>st</sup> birthday.

A get-well card was signed to send to Dr. David McMurtry who recently had back surgery.

## March 26, 2009 -

There is nothing new on the 5<sup>th</sup> Bower book.

The Young Cemetery on the Taylor Made Farm has been cleared and a marker installed. Still pending is word from the State of Kentucky on the cemetery grant application for the Hunter Cemetery. The military headstone for Thomas Overstreet has been received and a fence is now up at the Overstreet Cemetery. Bethel Church will be asked for a donation to install a gate and plaque. Ernestine is continuing to seek the grave of A. L. McAfee at Maple Grove Cemetery. His descendants would like to acquire a Confederate headstone for him. McAfee also served in the Spanish-American War. The possibility of placing a

monument for Union soldiers in the courthouse yard is being discussed with Jessamine County Judge Executive Neal Cassity. Anna Gayle Vickers with the Daughters of the Union and a man from the Sons of the Union will work with the Historical Society on this project. Ernestine will be pulling deeds on a new-found cemetery on Old Railroad Road involving the family of James M. and Martha Bourne Gregg. The Girl Scouts will help clear ice storm damage and paint boards at the Isaac Shelby Cemetery. This is an opportunity for children to learn about the history of Jessamine County. JCHS will accept the bid for \$1,295 by Terry Zeigler to remove the tree at Crockett Cemetery.

Speakers Glenn Teater and Terry McFarland gave the history of the Masons which dates back to 1717 in London, England. Some of our founding fathers that were Masons were George Washington, Benjamin Franklin and Paul Revere. Early Masons in our area were William McConnell, Robert Patterson, John Maxwell, and Levi Todd. Jessamine County created their Lodge in 1820. The name was changed from Jessamine Lodge to Hart Lodge by Henry Clay in honor of his brother-in-law, Nathaniel G. S. Hart, killed in the War of 1812. Robert Crockett was the first Master. John J. Hanley donated money for the first Masonic Lodge which was destroyed by fire in 1886. It was noted that members for the Masons are not recruited.

6/5/09

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 organization. Donations to JCHS may be tax-deductible.