

JESSAMINE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

June 30, 2008

The President's Corner

We had an interesting 9th Annual Jess History Fest even though there were fewer attendees than we had hoped for. We co-sponsored and participated in a program with the Jessamine County Public Library, "The Daniel Boone Extravaganza" during Fest weekend. (There is more about this elsewhere in this Newsletter.)

All members are encouraged to attend and bring a guest to our monthly meetings on the 4th Thursday of every month January through October (see the schedule under "Meetings.")

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 monthly at 7:00 on the 4th Thursday of every month except November and December. Informal meetings are held on Thursday afternoons from 1:00 - 3:00 p.m., when research may be done. All meetings are at the JCHS office in Farmers Square unless otherwise announced. Meetings for the next quarter are July 24, August 28 and September 25.

Cemetery Update

Of the 50 cemeteries we have helped to restore, 15 are maintained by landowners, 14 do not require maintenance but are checked regularly for possible repairs required, and 21 are maintained by the JCHS.

The iron fence at the Crockett Cemetery damaged by a falling tree has been repaired and replaced by Kentucky Ornamental Iron.

In the last newsletter, we mentioned the **Ison** and **Bryant** families who were seeking information on the six family victims of the 1932 flood. They have been found!! They are buried in Maple Grove Cemetery and all but one grave is marked. The family is planning to mark the other grave which holds the body of a mother and her two infant children. Many thanks to all those who helped locate these graves.

With help from the **Veatch** family, we hope to locate their cemetery soon.

If the weather is good on Saturday, July 12th, work will be done on the John A. Brooks cemetery located at Cream Ridge.

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This is a small cemetery with approximately four graves.

We went to take another look at the Campbell/Wilmore Cemetery in Wilmore. A tornado had uprooted a number of very large trees complete with rootballs. On our first visit, we decided it would require heavy equipment to clear these out and we did not have the means to do so. On our recent visit we could find no rootballs! It had been eight years since our first visit and in that amount of time wind and rain had washed away the rootballs. The large roots have rotted and disappeared. We decided to restore this cemetery in phases: phase 1 will be to cut up all the trees; phase 2 will be to remove what can be used as firewood and to discard any decayed portions; phase 3 will be to repair and reset the stones. We cannot estimate how long this project will take but it does appear possible to complete with the resources that we have. Many thanks to Mrs. June Lowery for her allowing us to work on her farm.

We would like to acknowledge the support of Jessamine County Judge Executive William Neal Cassity and the Fiscal Court for our cemetery project. Their donation of \$1,000.00 a year helps us maintain many of the 50 cemeteries that we have restored and to continue to restore a few more each year.

We are deeply grateful that we have received more donations thus far this year than our total donations for all of last year. Many of these donations are from out-of-state members or visitors to these old family cemeteries. Thank you for your support!

Miscellany

Billy Jackson Bower 5th Book update -- not much has progressed on this project as both Ms. Bower's sister, Ms. **Susan Keig**, and **Tommye Davidson** have been tied up on other projects. However, both are planning to get back on the project in July.

A new computer program for bookkeeping use seems to be working better than the downloaded check register which was being used. Additionally, the Farmers Bank has agreed to change our closing date to the 15th of the month for checking accounts which will allow our Monthly Treasurer's Reports to more closely coincide with the bank statements. Savings Accounts will continue to close at the end of each quarter and the building account will close at the end of each month.

Josephine Venable, a **Young and Mann** descendant, visited in April. She thanked the Board and Officers of Farmers Bank for donating space to the JCHS. We appreciate that she took the time and effort to mirror our feelings of appreciation to them. They have let us use their building for ten years.

We plan to participate in and hold book sales at the High Bridge Homecoming in August and the Jessamine Jamboree in October. In addition, we will make a push for Christmas book sales since these sales are our major source of income.

Emalene Rohrer's book, The Reynolds Family of Jessamine and Garrard Counties, has been reprinted and is for sale for \$15.00 plus \$3.00 shipping and \$0.90 tax for Kentucky residents. Reprinting books has become very expensive and we are able to

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sell Emalene's book at this price only because the printer, **First Impressions**, in Wilmore donated some of the effort and material. **We would appreciate our members giving their business to First Impressions because they have been so kind to continue giving us discounts on our printing needs.**

Next year will be our 10th History Fest; we will start planning right away. (Suggestions are welcome!) Maybe we could have a cookout at some historic spot and possibly open it to local people to create more interest in our Society.

2008 JCHS 9th Annual History Fest

The 9th Annual History Fest was held this year on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, June 19-21.

On Saturday, June 21, most JCHS members were involved in the *Daniel Boone Extravaganza* which we co-sponsored with the Jessamine County Library and which was held at the Library in two sessions, morning and afternoon. This Chautauqua-type presentation by Member **Dr. Dean Richards**, researched, wrote and directed the *Extravaganza*. Featured were enactments of early pioneers of Jessamine County portrayed in period costume. This was a "reading performance" and enactors read interviews actually held during or before the 1780s with the historical figures of the past. Many of these interviews came from the Draper Papers.

In addition to the *Extravaganza*, Dr. Richards arranged for live period music during performance breaks in the large library which all patrons enjoyed, as well as

displays of pioneer clothing, early artifacts and many interesting historical items.

As a result of members' participation in the *Extravaganza*, and due to the time limitations between the morning and afternoon performances, lunch was a buffet at the Golden Corral restaurant in Nicholasville rather than our usual catered luncheon.

Major Donations

Our thanks go to --

- **Tracy Lucas** for two books: Danville Lumber and Manufacturing Company, Inc. and Ephraim McDowell, Pioneer Surgeon.
- A photo collection of **Pearl Stinnett Fain's** donated by **Janelle Fain.**
- Bethel Academy research and photos donated by **Elexene Cox.**
- Lincoln in the Bluegrass book donated by **Bill and Tommye Davidson.**
- A generous cemetery fund donation from **Josephine Mann Venable**, as well as Dr. Mann and Bennett Young history information and old photos.
- **West Jessamine High School** donated many books, both historical and fiction. The historical books will be kept by the Society and those not retained will be put in our book sales in August, October and at Christmas. Some of the books are first editions and will command a better price. The books have been inventoried by Charlie and Ernestine Hamm and we are in the process of pricing the books for our sales events. JCHS members have first choice to

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purchase these books before they go on sale.

- Member **Alice Hills** started a project for us by donating used magazines and books to sell. **Larry Lewis** added to the literature by donating more books, Santa Claus keys and golf paper weights. **Ernestine Hamm** cleaned out files and added duplicate copies of periodicals we had. This has proven to be a hit with those attending the Thursday afternoon meetings. Since this is so popular, we plan to take the "collection" to our book sales sessions. Thanks, Alice, for such a great idea!

Meetings This Past Quarter:

The *April 24, 2008* meeting was held at the JCHS office. Margaret Morgan, Chair of the Wilmore Community Development Board, gave a talk on her historical home, the Curd House, on High Bridge Road. She gave some very interesting history on the house and even told us about her ghosts (they're friendly but very evasive). She loves them, but her guests are awed.

Bill and Inez Russell were unable to attend the April meeting due to the death of Bill's brother. We extend our sympathies to Bill and his family.

The *May 22, 2008* meeting was held at the Bethel Pointe Clubhouse in Wilmore. Fifteen members and three guests attended. Refreshments were served by **Bill and Tommye Davidson**, residents of Bethel Pointe.

The *June 19, 2008* meeting was held at the JCHS offices a week earlier than the usual 4th Thursday so History Fest attendees could attend. Attending this year from Florida were members **Derald** and **Connie Smart**, and Connie's sisters, **Darlene Simmons** and **Jackie Holmes**. Derald said he brought them along to help pay for gas!

Lyde Simpson of Nicholasville was honored at the June meeting for being a charter member of the JCHS. We continue to enjoy Lyde's book that she wrote several years ago on the Women of Jessamine County. One of our projects is to get Lyde to help us bring her book up to date -- we just need to get the time because Lyde is ready and willing to help.

About the Newsletter and the JCHS

The JCHS Newsletter, published quarterly, appears on our website which is maintained by Jo Arnspiger at www.jesshistorical.org and is also published on our "JessList" which is maintained by Terry Todd. Please visit our website and join our Jesslist by contacting Terry Todd at 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 the JCHS are tax-deductible.

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