

JESSAMINE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

September 30, 2008

The President's Corner

As we wind down 2008, thanks all those who have worked so hard and faithfully to keep the Jessamine County Historical Society alive. We have many members who are unable to physically work, members who are not located here or for some other reason cannot work on various projects, and we want to give them special thanks for their monetary support and material donations. Since book sales and dues are our major sources of income, we appreciate donations that allow us to continue our work.

Our meetings have been suspended for November and December, but I would like to encourage everyone to attend our monthly meetings beginning again in January 2009.

Blessings and Happy Holidays!

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 first quarter of 2009 are scheduled for January 22, February 26 and March 26. Please mark your calendar to attend.

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

Cemetery Update by Ernestine Hamm

We are in the midst of fall cleanup and have had a number of large trees fall, taking down some fences.

We have finished the John A. Brooks Cemetery located on Cream Ridge at Little Hickman.

Work has begun on the Gregg/McCampbell Cemetery on Union Mill Pike. This cemetery was vandalized and many of the stones are broken into small pieces. This cemetery is located on part of the William Hays land. It was also the home of William T. Barry, famous lawyer, for whom a statue was erected in the courthouse yard in

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Fayette County. He also had his law office here in a small wooden structure (see Bennett Young's book).

A stone for Alford Douglas who died in 1871 was found in this cemetery. There is also an investigation being done to prove this is the land where Daniel Boone had his last home in Jessamine County, a two-story log structure.

Research is being done to acquire a military headstone for two brothers who were Revolutionary War soldiers, Thomas and Henry Overstreet. Consent has been given to fence this cemetery because of cattle damage. It is located in the Bethel area.

Ms. June Lowry has given permission for work to begin on the cemetery located on her farm at High Bridge. It is the Campbell/Wilmore Cemetery and we hope to find Robert Campbell, a Revolutionary War soldier, buried there. We are also looking for Peter Pollack (spellings vary). He is a Revolutionary War soldier who married Mary Poore and is said to be buried in the Jack Bradshaw family cemetery at High Bridge.

One of our projects that will be carried over till next year is a possible cemetery preservation grant to restore the Samuel Hunter Cemetery at Logana. This area also must be fenced before restoration can begin. Samuel Hunter was one of three brothers, including Jacob and John, who were the first permanent white settlers in Jessamine County. They were also chain carriers for the Douglas and Hite surveyors. Both Jacob's and John's wives received widows pensions. We are still looking for records for

Samuel. They also built one of only three stations in Jessamine County, located very near the graveyard. A son of John Hunter was the first white child to be born in Jessamine County. We hope to place a plaque with all this historical information at the cemetery.

If you have any information on any of these projects or would like to make a donation to further these projects, please send to Ernestine Hamm at the Jessamine County Historical Society, 216 North Main Street - Farmers Square, Nicholasville, KY 40356.

Thanks for all your support.

-Ernestine Hamm

Other Cemetery News

It was reported at the July monthly meeting that a Jessamine County Fiscal Court \$1,000 stipend has been received. It is much needed and appreciated. Our cemetery work could not be done if it were not for this support.

At the August 28th meeting, Ernestine showed a film of the Brooks Cemetery; the owner helped remove trees and the family got a marker for John A. Brooks and his wife. His family will hold a reunion in October.

Of the three new cemeteries on Tates Creek Pike, one is an African-American cemetery in which the stone of Ben and Emily Williams survived.

The stone for Revolutionary War soldier Thomas Ricketts has been set and was shown on film at the August 28th meeting.

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The Isaac Shelby Cemetery and the cemetery at High Point Golf Course have been vandalized. The Jessamine County Sheriff made reports.

A military stone acquired by the family has been set for Revolutionary War soldier George Michael Bruner, which was mentioned in the Jessamine Journal. A photo appears on the Jessamine County website at <http://jesshistorical.com>.

Howard Downing, Attorney, has been helping find the location of George Walker's grave and has found a deed.

Miscellany

The Historical Society donated \$25.00 to support the Camp Nelson National Cemetery caisson program headed by Terry Lucas, who provides a caisson for military funerals. This caisson provides a very touching and somber scene as it bears the remains of those fallen veterans who have served our country. Terry appreciates any donation made for this effort. You may forward any donation to the JCHS at our address below and we will see that Terry receives it.

Getting a dedicated computer line for the JCHS office was investigated so that program updates and queries could be handled at the office. However, all sources proved to be more expensive than the Society could afford so the issue has been closed.

Terry Todd, an out-of-town member, and his family wish to place an historical marker for

Todd's Ferry at Brooklyn Bridge. Terry is gathering the background data necessary for the application and the JCHS agreed to sponsor his request. The Todd family will pay for the marker.

The Jessamine County School System donated many various kinds of books to the Society. Those of historical significance were kept for the JCHS Billy Bower Memorial Library and those not kept are being sold.

Note: The JCHS website is changed to <http://jesshistorical.com>. The former website (ending in ".org") has been purchased by Viagra. We have had many, many calls and inquiries about this change. Please be sure to change your notes to reflect that we are now ".com."

The Fourth of July historical marker on Route 68 has been replaced. Permission to move it down Clear Creek Road has been sent to Frankfort and it looks hopeful that this may be approved. Many thanks to Kathy Hall for donating funds to replace this marker.

As many of you are aware, the price of metals has gone up and our highway markers are taking the brunt of many thefts. If you notice a Jessamine County historical highway marker missing, please report it to the JCHS.

Work is continuing on the Billy Jackson Bower 5th Book. Some research remains, and some map identification and credits remain to be done. We are hoping to get this completed in the near future and then determine a time table for publication.

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The Paul Sawyer play by Elexene Cox was held at the High Bridge Pavilion in September. Mrs. Cox says this is the final presentation. This play has been enjoyed by many people far and wide. The JCHS sponsored with donations the purchase of a Kentucky Historical Society brick in honor of Elexene Cox so that we could honor her for all her accomplishments that helps preserve the history of Jessamine County. If you wish to make a cash donation to finish paying for this brick in her honor, please send your check to the JCHS with a notation on the check for its use.

The Jessamine Jamboree was held October 3rd and 4th. The JCHS set up a booth and sold books. We encourage everyone to look on our website to see the books available and buy all you can.

Christmas Open House will have an art theme this year with the work of local artists being displayed.

Donations Received

- Hemphill Family Book donated by Mrs. George Dale Robinson.
- Beyond Sheridan donated by Alice Hills.
- A framed Masonic Lodge Certificate for Chester A. West donated by Glenn Teater. This Certificate has been returned to the West family.
- Videos of Virginia Simpson (the "Hat Lady" comparing hats to history) donated by the Jessamine County Public Library.
- Pictures of David and Nancy Wade Brumfield donated by Robert Sewell.

Meetings This Quarter:

July 24: Bettye Lee Mastin, well-known architectural authority on Central Kentucky historic homes and long-time *Lexington Herald-Leader* columnist, spoke about old houses in Jessamine County. She showed pictures from her collection of old log homes, different types of brick houses, i.e., the common bond and Flemish bond patterns, and the different types of timber used in constructing these older homes. This was a very informative presentation and a good-sized crowd enjoyed learning about our early homes.

August 29: Speaker was Terry Lucas, who is involved with the Camp Nelson National Cemetery Honor Guard. Mr. Lucas is seeking donations to build a six-horse caisson to bestow the highest honor upon soldiers killed in the line of duty. Fifty gold stars will be placed on the caisson and they can be purchased for \$500 each in honor of a loved one or a veteran. The Camp Nelson Honor Guard is run entirely by volunteers and donations.

September 25: The guest speaker was Charles Bogart, manager of the Fort Boone Civil War Park. He gave an interesting presentation about railroads and forts during the Civil War era. He stressed that railroads played a very important role in the Civil War and were much more efficient than horse and wagon to move supplies. He showed many maps of the railroads and forts of that time.

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.