

Footprints

In History

Jessamine County Historical Society

Quarterly Newsletter of August 2021

A Colorful Kickoff to the Quarterly Meeting

Lee Robinette

The last quarterly meeting of the historical society, on July 22nd at the public library, began with a visit from a colonial military color guard.

The four men picture at right are members of the Lafayette and Daniel Boone chapters of the Sons of the American Revolution. For the last year and a half, the SAR has been involved in the labor intensive project of cleaning and preserving the graves of patriots of the American Revolution in Jessamine and the surrounding counties. But in order to preserve, they first had to locate them. Many are in small cemeteries on private land, neglected and forgotten. In Jessamine County, at least, they were able to rely on the knowledge and help of Ernestine Hamm, mainstay of the Jessamine County Historical Society.

Mrs. Hamm has devoted decades to preserving the scores of small cemeteries in the county. She has researched locations, always scrupulously respecting the rights of cur-



Patrick Wesolosky, Nick Blevins, Steve Gahafer, and Patrick Parker of the Sons of the American Revolution

rent property owners. With her husband, Charlie Hamm, she has braved weeds, fallen trees, snakes, and brush to clean up sites that have been neglected or vandalized. They

have re-erected fallen stones and pieced together broken ones. In some cases, she has collected enough

See Quarterly Meeting page 3

More Stories

Judy Woolums

Director, Wilmore Community Development

After a Covid induced hiatus, the More Tales Storytelling Festival returns to Wilmore on September 17-

18. This year's event has been moved from the Downtown Green to the Dan Glass Pavilion located behind the new municipal center in Wilmore. Storytellers from across the country are ready to get back on the stage and share some tales. Don't forget to mark your calendar, September 17th and 18th for

amazing stories, craft vendors and food, right here in Wilmore. More Tales, Wilmore storytelling Festival is back and will be better than ever! This is a free event, thanks to our generous sponsors and volunteers.

Editor's note: The historical society will be among the vendors at this event.

The President's Message

Richard Lucas

Lee Robinette and Pat Hunt tell me it is time for me to get another of these messages to them for the upcoming newsletter. Thank you both for picking up the reins from Sherrell Brown.

It was great to have another quarterly meeting July 22, 2021 with a guest speaker at the Jessamine County Public Library. Really good to see so many people (39 I am told), mostly unmasked, together to hear about a small part of the history of this county. Those who were unable to attend missed a great talk about the history of Wilmore streets, which of course provided us in attendance with the history not only of Wilmore, but also of that part of our county between Jessamine and Indian Creeks.

The meeting began with a presentation of colors by the Color Guard of the local chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR). Quite impressive. The SAR then presented Ernestine Hamm, our

Cemetery and Research Director, with three well deserved metals and certificates. These were for her assistance in identifying Patriot gravesites, as well as all she has accomplished over the years in identifying and preserving our county's historical cemeteries and graveyards.

I felt it was very fitting to have Dr. Mark R. Elliott, author of the recently published Pieces of History: The Stories Behind the Street Names of Wilmore, Kentucky, speak to us about the history of a part of Jessamine County and the SAR present at this meeting at this time when there are those in this country who are trying to change our history. This especially related to me as I have just finished reading David Hackett Fischer's Washington's Crossing. I quote a part of the last paragraph of his narrative, "Much recent historical writing has served us ill". This is in respect to the patriots who fought in New Jersey from December 25, 1775 to the lat-

ter part of March 1777, improvising a new way of war and choosing a "policy of humanity that aligned the conduct of the war with the values of the Revolution." "In the late twentieth century, too many scholars tried to make the American past into a record of crime and folly. Too many writers have told us that we are captives of our darker selves and helpless victims of our darker side. It isn't so, and never was."

I could not agree more, especially since I came to the Jessamine County Historical and Genealogical Society as a budding family historian. I also go along with Dr. Fischer's last part of the Appendix entitled "Historiography." "The past is our country. Our own kin lived there. The memory of what they did is becoming ever more important as a part of our lives."

I pray this newsletter finds you all well.

Richard Lucas

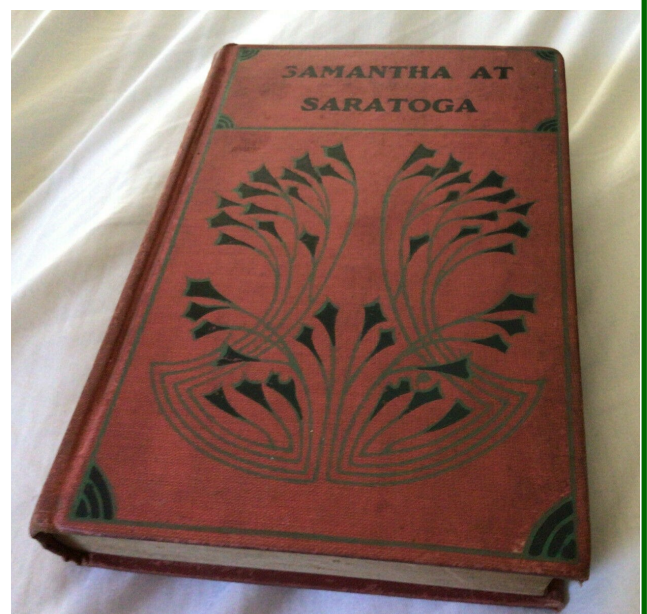
The Treasurer's Two Cents

Pat Hunt

We had two large book sales recently. The St. Louis County Public Library purchased many of our county books. Also, a gentleman drove from North Carolina to purchase old books for his restaurant to use as decor. All book sales, large or small, are appreciated. eBay sales have slowed down in the past two months, most likely due to the fact it is summertime. The link to our eBay books is: <https://www.ebay>

and no amount is too small. Donations made to the Historical Society are tax-deductible. I would also like to emphasize that the presence of members and visitors at meetings and other events is highly valued. Your participation is priceless.

Pat Hunt



Donations are always appreciated,

Quarterly Meeting continued



Patrick Wesolosky presents awards to Ernestine Hamm

evidence to obtain government funding for markers at the graves of forgotten veterans. Moreover, she has documented, as far as possible, the names of those buried in small, scattered sites around the county. Every year, the historical society receives requests both from within and without the borders of Kentucky asking for information about the final resting places of relatives. Mrs. Hamm is usually able to provide the information. Now, prevented by health issues from doing the hard work of cleaning, she is still fighting to preserve cemeteries. One of the biggest threats today is from growth. State law, advocated for by Mrs. Hamm and a few others, requires developers to preserve and maintain any cemeteries on land where they

plan to build. However, it is easy to overlook or to feign ignorance of a small plot on a large tract. Mrs. Hamm monitors property transactions and makes sure that purchasers are aware of any graves located on their land, and of their responsibilities.

In recognition of her contributions to their own efforts and to the community at large, the SAR presented Mrs. Hamm with three awards: the SAR Medal of Appreciation, in recognition of her assistance to the Lafayette chapter in locating and documenting the graves of Revolutionary War patriots; the Martha Washington Medal for ensuring that the sites of Revolutionary War and other veterans' graves are provided with government headstones or oth-

er markers; and the Bronze Good Citizenship Medal in recognition of her decades of helping families and individuals with research on genealogy, records, property, and burial sites. The Jessamine County Historical Society, in turn, would like to thank Patrick Wesolosky and his associates at the SAR for their efforts in carrying on some of the work of Ernestine and Charlie Hamm.

The rest of the meeting proceeded in a more conventional fashion. The attendees enjoyed a talk by Mark Elliot, author of a new book entitled *Pieces of History: The Stories Behind the Street Names of Wilmore, Kentucky*. Mr. Elliot is a professor emeritus and former trustee of Asbury college (now University.) He was able to bring interest and humor to the subject by relating the names of streets to the history, culture, and geography of the town. Proceeds from the books he sold at the meeting were donated to the city of Wilmore.



Dr. Mark Elliot

Long Ago in a County Not So Far Away

Lee Robinette

If you think elections these days bring out the crazy in people...

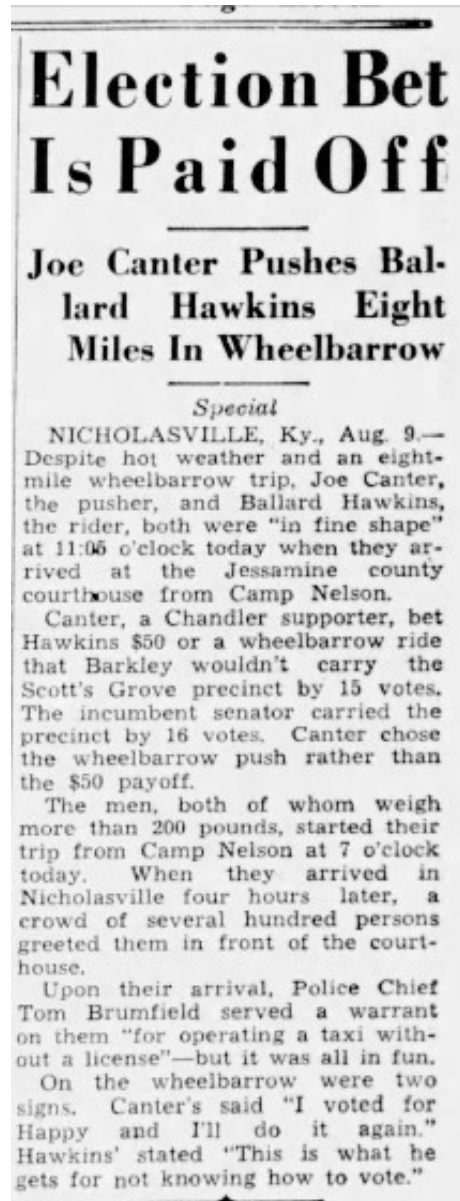
This article from the Lexington Leader gives a distinctly local flavor to a state election which attracted national attention.

In 1938, Alben Barkley was Kentucky's senior senator and the powerful leader of the senate in Washington. A.B. (Happy) Chandler was Kentucky's popular young governor. Both were democrats, but Barkley was a strong supporter of Franklin Roosevelt and his New Deal policies. Chandler, on the other hand, was one of a number of fiscally conservative, mostly southern, democrats who were alarmed at the huge deficits accumulating under the New Deal.

Ever ambitious, Chandler challenged Barkley in the Democratic primary. The stakes were high. Chandler and other like minded Democrats hoped to take control of the party before the presidential nominating convention in 1940. Barkley was determined to stop them. The contest quickly became the most important and most watched of the mid term elections. It also quickly became personal.

Facing a powerful incumbent and with his arguments against the New Deal proving ineffectual - people in Kentucky liked the alphabet soup of relief programs - Chandler resorted to ridicule. He routinely referred to Barkley, sixty at the time, as "Old Alben". When Barkley's stamina and tireless campaigning style belied the epithet, Chandler tried to paint him as out of touch with the people of Kentucky citing his years in Washington and his European travels. The governor continued to trail in the polls.

In one of the more bizarre incidents of the campaign, Chandler fell



ill after delivering a radio address in Louisville. He claimed to have intestinal poisoning, and his physician asserted that Chandler and two others had ingested a chemical poison in a pitcher of ice water provided for him during his speech. Chandler insinuated that that the poisoning was deliberate and the work of his political opponents. After a brief investigation, Louisville police dismissed the allegation, and most people felt that the charges were a desperate ploy by the trailing Chandler. But the episode did not end there. For the rest of the campaign, during

speeches, Barkley would perform an elaborate pantomime of raising a glass to his lips, pausing to examine it critically, then putting it aside untasted with a shudder. Crowds loved it.

Another claim that Chandler made was taken more seriously. He charged that Barkley was using federal relief agencies - the WPA in particular - to influence and buy votes. The practice was not unheard of, and not actually illegal, but it was distinctly unsavory. However Chandler was throwing rocks from inside a glass house. His own campaigns was blatantly raising money from state employees and threatening to withhold state pension checks from voters who supported his opponent.

In a series of investigative articles (for which he won a Pulitzer Prize), a reporter named Thomas Stokes uncovered a pervasive pattern of thinly veiled bribes, threats, and political machinations on the part of both contestants. In response to the widely publicized, shocking details, a senate investigative panel was formed. That led to the passage, the following year, of the Hatch Act, which bars federal employees from engaging in political activities.

F.D.R. made several campaign appearances in Kentucky for his Senate ally. Barkley beat Chandler in the primary and went on to defeat his Republican opponent even more decisively. However, Chandler did enter the Senate a few months later when the state's junior Senator died and he, as governor, appointed himself to fill the remainder of the term.

As you can see from the Leader article, in the midst of all the drama, some residents of Jessamine County managed to maintain a sense of humor.

Finding Roots in a New Home

Pat Hunt

Have you ever moved to a new state where you did not know a soul or have any relatives? I did just that in July 1985 when I moved to Lexington, KY. I originally came from Massachusetts, where both of my parents were born. My father's father, Charles Williams, was born in Southern Indiana and moved to Massachusetts during World War I, where he stayed to live and raise a family. He was the son of Riley Williams and Minnie Rider.

I was always very interested in

genealogy and started to actively re-search my roots in 1999. I discovered that my great-great grandmother, Sarah Canter, came from a family with roots in Estill, Jackson and Rockcastle Counties in Kentucky. She married George Washington Rider. To my amazement, they were married during Civil War times right in Jessamine County, KY.

Upon researching my Williams side of the family, I found out that my fifth great grandfather, James Carothers, was a revolutionary sol-

dier who died in Jessamine County in the 1830's. He daughter Nancy married Ezekiel Proctor, who was from a Proctor family who settled in Keene.

When I joined the Jessamine County Historical Society in 2002, I immediately felt a sense of being at home. There are Canter descendants who still live in the area. Maybe I was just meant to be part of all this? Do not ever say you are not related to anybody. You just may be surprised!

*Lives of great men all remind us
We can make our lives sublime,
And, departing, leave behind us
Footprints on the sands of time ...*

- Henry Wadsworth Longfellow -

Don't Miss These Coming Events

Lee Robinette

Second Saturday Open House and Book Sale

(September 11th, October 9th, November 13th)

On the second Saturday of every month our office in Nicholasville is open from noon to 5:00 for research, book sales, questions, and discussion

More Tales

(September 18th)

Visit the historical society's table at the More Tales festival in to Wilmore. See the article by Judy Woolums on page 1. Some of our members will be there with books on county history and Howard Fain prints for sale.

Chili Cookoff

(Saturday, October 16th)

Add a little spice to autumn. This October the historical society is reviving the countywide cooking competition. Volunteer cooks from Nicholasville, Wilmore, and Keene will pit their chili recipes against one another. For an admission price of \$10 per person (children 12 and under enter free) attendees can sample the various entries and fill up on their favorites - but don't forget to leave room for dessert.

There will be a guest speaker to entertain and inform us, and after the tasting comes the voting. Which community will win bragging rights for 2021? Do you like it with beans or without? Where

do you stand on pasta in the chili? How hot can you take it? Join us and vote for your pick.

Quarterly meeting

(October 28th)

At our next quarterly meeting we will be holding elections for one board member and the entire slate of officers. Anyone interested in serving or who would like to nominate someone else, please contact Phillip Craft, head of the nominating committee, at philc99@windstream.net or at (859) 858-0128.

Please watch our web page for details on the date and time.

Research Materials: Baker Collection Continued

Richard Lucas

This is part of the information available at the Jessamine County Historical Society on the second shelf of the bookshelves holding the Juanita Baker collection.

The first five books from the left of the shelf are the five volumes of Genealogies of Virginia Families from the William and Mary College Quarterly Historical Magazine, with an Introduction by John Frederick Dorman, indexed by Carol Lee Ford, Volume I, Adams – Clapton, published by Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc., 1982. Volume II, Cobb – Hay, was indexed by Gary Parks, also published 1982. Volume III, Heale – Moscoe, indexed by Elizabeth Petty Bentley, was also published 1982. Volume IV, Neville - Terrill, indexed by Judith McGhan, also published 1982. Volume V, Thompson – Yates (and Appendix), indexed by Robert and Catherine Barnes and published 1982.

The Next five books are the five volumes of Genealogies of Virginia Families, from the O. Volume I is families Adams – Chiles, indexed by Thomas L. Hollowak; Volume II is Claiborne – and Volume IV is Healy – Pryor, indexed by Toby Drews; Volume V is Randolph – Zouch, also indexed by Thomas L. Hollowak. All volumes were published in 1981.

The next book on this shelf in entitled Hanover County Chancery Wills and Notes, A Compendium of Genealogical, Biographical and His-

torical Material as Contained in Cases of the Chancery Suits of Hanover County, Virginia, compiled by William Ronald Cocks, III, 1978. The title tells us what we need to know about the book's contents.

torical Material as Contained in Cases of the Chancery Suits of Hanover County, Virginia, compiled by William Ronald Cocks, III, 1978. The title tells us what we need to know about the book's contents.

torical Material as Contained in Cases of the Chancery Suits of Hanover County, Virginia, compiled by William Ronald Cocks, III, 1978. The title tells us what we need to know about the book's contents.

torical Material as Contained in Cases of the Chancery Suits of Hanover County, Virginia, compiled by William Ronald Cocks, III, 1978. The title tells us what we need to know about the book's contents.

torical Material as Contained in Cases of the Chancery Suits of Hanover County, Virginia, compiled by William Ronald Cocks, III, 1978. The title tells us what we need to know about the book's contents.

torical Material as Contained in Cases of the Chancery Suits of Hanover County, Virginia, compiled by William Ronald Cocks, III, 1978. The title tells us what we need to know about the book's contents.



Part of the Juanita Baker Collection

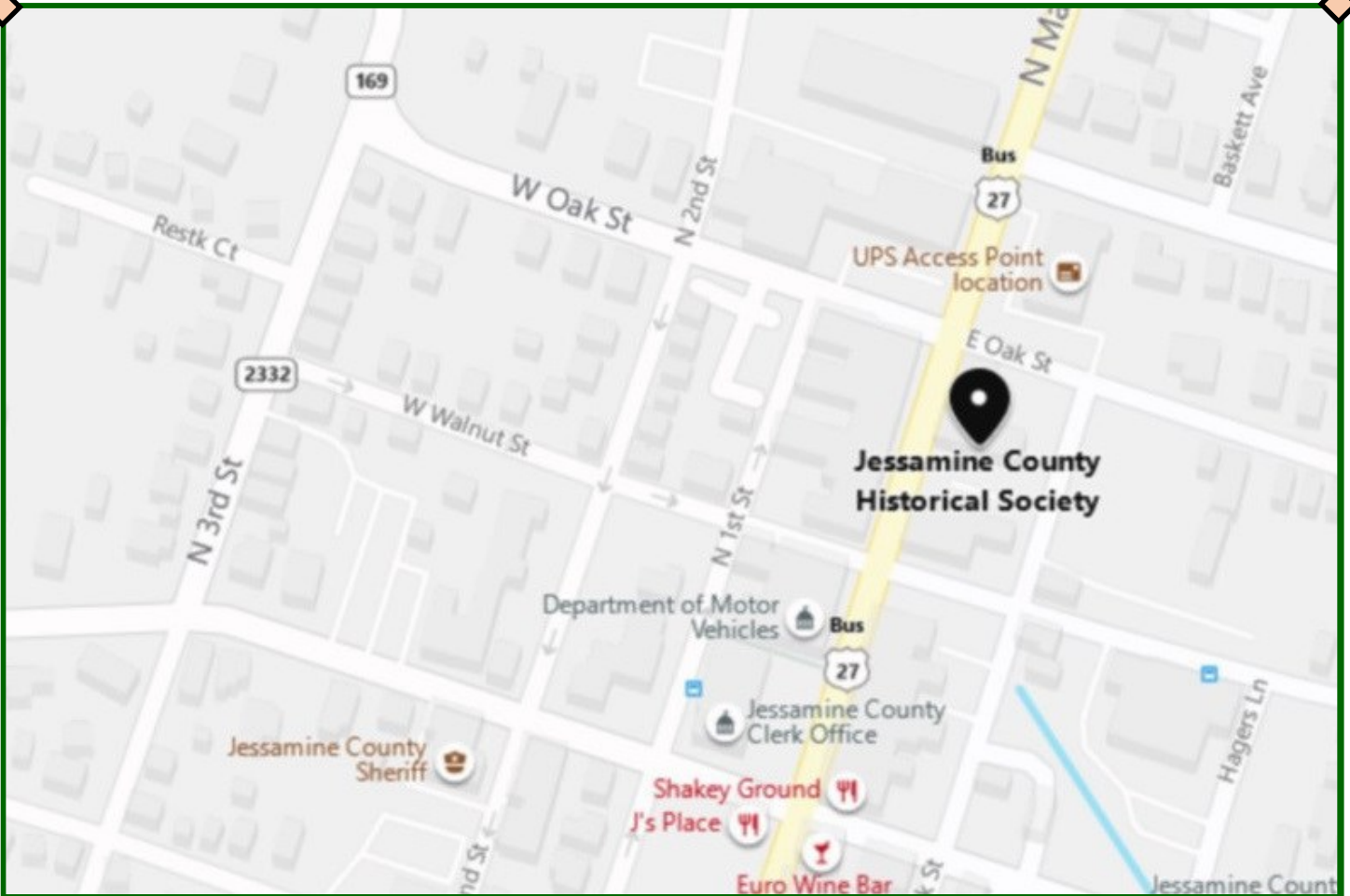
torical Material as Contained in Cases of the Chancery Suits of Hanover County, Virginia, compiled by William Ronald Cocks, III, 1978. The title tells us what we need to know about the book's contents.

torical Material as Contained in Cases of the Chancery Suits of Hanover County, Virginia, compiled by William Ronald Cocks, III, 1978. The title tells us what we need to know about the book's contents.

Books Available from Your Historical Society

Lee Robinette

Annie's House Coloring Book by Susan Miller	\$2.00
Aunt Ran's Cookbook - reprint of 1910 cookbook	\$6.00
Billie Jackson Bower Collection: (set of five)	\$25.00
A History of Ashgrove Pike, Catnip Hill Pike, Etc	\$5.00
A History of Brannon Road, Jessamine Co., KY	\$5.00
Crossing the River & Other Lore of Jessamine Co., KY	\$5.00
Mills, Murders & More in the Early History of Jessamine Co.	\$5.00
Rails, Rivers, Roads and Early Years in Jessamine Co., KY	\$5.00
First Ladies by Elexene Mastin Cox (Reduced Price)	\$10.00
High Bridge - A Pictorial History by Howard Curry Teater (reprint)	\$20.00
History of Jessamine County by Bennett Young	\$20.00
History of Wilmore by Bill & Pat Davidson (DVD)	\$15.00
Jessamine County by S. M. Duncan	\$2.50
Jessamine County 1798-1993 (hard bound)	\$55.00
Jessamine County 1798-1993 (soft bound)	\$5.00
Jessamine County Cemeteries, Vol. 2 by Howard Curry Teater	\$25.00
Jessamine County History Through Hats by Virginia Simpson (DVD)	\$15.00
Jessamine County, Kentucky A Pictorial History	\$49.95
Jessamine's Patchwork by Elexene Mastin Cox (Reduced Price)	\$10.00
Life in the Bluegrass: A Pictorial History of the Early Years by Lexington Herald-Leader	\$39.95
Main Street - Nicholasville, Kentucky by Rita Marrs (print approx. 16" X 20")	\$10.00
Maple Grove Cemetery, Vol. 1 by Howard Curry Teater	\$25.00
Oral History Set, Vol. 1-3 Reduced price - only 6 sets left	\$20.00
Revolutionary War and Some Jessamine County Soldiers by Mildred Bunch	\$25.00
Reynolds Family of Garrard, Jessamine, and Madison Counties of Kentucky by Emalene Rhorer	\$15.00
Russell Family by William "Bill" Russell	\$20.00
Sketch of Jessamine County by Miss Jessamine Woodson	\$2.50
Societies of Kentucky: General & Historical & Their Books by Bax McClure Reduced price	\$5.00
Stories of Jessamine County, Kentucky by Clyde N. Bunch	\$3.50
Story of High Bridge, Kentucky by Clyde N. Bunch (CD or DVD)	\$10.00
Those Traveling Baptists by Elexene Mastin Cox	\$10.00
William W. & Mary "Polly" Murphy Walker of Jessamine Co., KY by Howard Curry Teater	\$15.00
Wilmore Cemetery, Vol. 3 by Howard Curry Teater	\$20.00



Mission Statement

Look for us on the web at:

jessaminehistorical@gmail.com

or on facebook at:

[facebook.com/jesshistorical](https://www.facebook.com/jesshistorical)

President - Richard Lucas

Vice President - Jerry Brown

Treasurer - Pat Hunt

Secretary - Charlie Hamm

Newsletter Editors – Pat Hunt
and Lee Robinette

The mission of the organization is to collect and perpetuate facts of historical interest to Jessamine County and Kentucky; to awaken interest and encourage the study of the history of Jessamine County and Kentucky; to collect and preserve relics, historical sites and documents of historical interest; to assist in marking historical sites with tablets or memorials; to receive property of any kind and to do any and all acts that would in any way further the goals and purposes of this organization.

If you have not paid your membership dues for 2021 it isn't too late, and the cost for the rest of the calendar year is only \$10.00. Mail a check made out to JCHS, or better yet, come visit us on Thursdays between 1:00 and 3:00 or on the second Saturday of each month between 12:00 and 5:00.