



The Bluegrass Journal

Newsletter of the Bluegrass Heritage Museum
Home of the Clark County Historical Society
Spring 2013

Wow! We Made It!!

Thanks to our wonderful members and friends in the community, we have met our goal in the "Retire the Debt" campaign, raising the entire amount required to receive the second matching grant from the Clark County Community Foundation. As soon as the paperwork is completed and we receive the grant money, the museum will be debt-free for the first time in its history!

Just the thought is "staggering" to museum director Sandy Stults. "I've been involved since the very beginning of the idea of a museum. We received a Transportation grant to do much of the initial work of rehabbing this wonderful old building, getting it up to code, and opening the first floor. But loans were required to finish the second and third floors and we've been paying on them since the doors opened. I never dreamed that we'd be debt-free just eight years later!"

Museum board president Gardner Wagers adds, "It is amazing that we had two years to raise the funds, but with the generous support from the community, the Museum was able to raise the required \$35,000 in only 9 months!! We are also very appreciative and thankful to the Clark County Community Foundation for making this leveraging gift available because it was the incentive that made the debt retirement drive a reality."

The museum is planning a note-burning ceremony and appreciation lunch in late spring or early summer to thank the community and contributors for their support.

Civil War Symposium Planned

Continuing the commemoration of the sesquicentennial of the Civil War, the museum is planning a second Civil War Symposium to be held on Saturday, June 1, 2013.

"Our first symposium was two years ago and it was very well received by the community. This year is the 150th anniversary of the Civil War Fort at Boonesboro, so it seems an appropriate time to spend another day recalling some of the people and events here in Kentucky at that time."

Featured speakers will include Jerry Raisor, Chautauqua presenter Robert Bell, and authors Stuart Sanders and David Mowery.
(See *Symposium*, p. 7)

Upcoming Events:

Trolley Tours (see p. 2 for more details):

May 7—Harry Enoch, Downtown Buildings on National Historic Registry. 6:00 p.m.

May 14—Achilles Eubank house. 5:30 p.m.

May 21—Indian Old Fields Survey Report. 5:30 p.m.

May 28—Harry Enoch, Interesting Characters Buried in the Winchester Cemetery. 6:00 p.m.

June 1: Civil War Symposium

See article below left for information.

2nd Thursday Programs:

May 9—Wayna Adams, Daniel Boone National Forest

June 13—Shaker Village

July 11—Eddie Price—author of *Widder's Landing*

August 8—Clare Sipple, Agriculture in Clark County

Sept. 12—Bill Farmer, Fort Boonesboro Iron Implements

All 2nd Thursday programs are held at the Bluegrass Heritage Museum, 217 South Main Street, beginning at 6:30 p.m. They are free to the public, and refreshments are served.

The museum is open noon-4 p.m. Monday through Saturday.

From the Director:

Your museum continues to be a hub of activity for the Winchester/Clark County community!

May is Preservation month, which means it's Trolley Tour time! We are delighted that local historian Harry Enoch will be leading two tours, one on National Historic buildings downtown and the other on some of the fascinating local characters buried in the Winchester Cemetery. We will also be visiting the home of pioneer Achilles Eubank, who came to Kentucky with Daniel Boone; it is under renovation, so we'll see some "before and after" conditions. In addition, we will visit Indian Old Fields, have a box supper, and hear about the findings of the survey led by archaeologists throughout the month of April. The cost for each trip is \$10 except for the Indian Old Fields trip, which will be \$20 to include supper. The popular Trolley Tours are always fun as well as educational, so be sure to call 745-1358 and make your reservations soon. See p. 1 for the dates of each tour.

We're also excited with plans for our Civil War Symposium on June 1. An excellent slate of presenters will talk about the fort at Boonesboro, which was established 150 years ago in 1863, as well as Morgan's raid, the impact of the Battle of Perryville on the civilians, and the struggles of African American soldiers fighting for the Union. Pages 1 and 7 offer more information.

We are delighted to continue to work with our local Farmers' Market. Their "Growing Kentucky" program (pp. 4-5) was a great success, as was "Breakfast with a Farmer," and we look forward to another season with them in the museum parking lot on Tuesdays and Saturdays.

Hundreds of school children have visited the museum this spring to learn about pioneer life and the Civil War. Hands-on activities included artifact analysis, dressing in period clothing, churning butter and more, all in an attempt to bring history alive to the next generation.

And, of course, last but certainly not least, we are ready to celebrate with all of you as we prepare to retire our debt! This has been a huge undertaking which you have supported so generously, and we are so grateful to such a wonderful community.

Sandy

The Bluegrass Heritage Museum

DIRECTOR—Sandy Stults

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Pioneer Personalities #10

Test your knowledge of early Kentucky history. Here is the tenth of Kathryn Owen's "Pioneer Personalities of the Past" series, originally presented on Margaret Kagin's "Kitty Klark" radio program on WWKY in the 1960s.

Clue 1:

I was born in Clark County, Kentucky in the area known as the Bush settlement. My mother was a daughter of Ambrose and Lucy Bush and my father was the son of a distinguished immigrant who came from Austria to Virginia and thence to Clark county. My father's surname is the same as that of numerous Roman emperors.

Clue 2:

When I was about six years of age my father moved his family to Virginia because of the superior educational advantages available in that state. We were living in Georgetown in the District of Columbia in 1814 at which time I witnessed the burning of the Capitol by the British.

Clue 3:

In the year 1824 I married a Methodist minister, a native of Kentucky. Soon after we moved to Shelbyville, Kentucky, where in 1825 I founded the Science Hill Academy for young women. This venture into the field of education proved to be successful and the name of my school became famous throughout the state.

Clue 4:

One of the most memorable events of my life occurred on May 14, 1825 when General Lafayette was making his farewell tour to America. When he arrived at Frankfort the official greeting committee had difficulty in conversing with him. I was hastily summoned from Shelbyville and I served as interpreter for the gallant old general.

I conducted my school until the year of my death in 1883.

WHO AM I?

(The answer appears on the bottom of p. 7.)

Did You Know...

The Bluegrass Heritage Museum and the Clark County Historical Society are one and the same? If you are a member of one, you are a member of both. The two entities merged shortly after the museum first opened. One of the results of this merger was the Second Thursday Program, an opportunity to meet once a month and share aspects of local history. The museum serves as a logical collection point of artifacts, family papers, and other documents relating to our area.

Growing Kentucky:

The museum and the Farmers' Market combined to present "Growing Kentucky," a morning which offered visitors both a snapshot of the history of agriculture in Clark County and a taste of some of the products of the area.

Approximately 75 people attended the March 23 event. After a welcome by museum director Sandy Stults, Clare Sipple presented a discussion and slide show about the early history of farming, which has always been a primary focus of the county.

She explained that the first settlers were subsistence farmers; that is, all their efforts were on survival. They had to clear the land and build

fortified settlements, and they lived on the crops they grew. Often, corn, beans, and gourds grew between tree stumps. If settlers made an improvement such as a cabin or crop, they could claim 400 acres and buy an additional 1,000 acres.

Eventually the settlements grew; the farmers were more established and able to reach the second level of economy, barter. They would trade tobacco, country linen, feathers, and more for various items they needed.

The third level was the money-making phase. In 1787, just 12 years after settling Boonesborough, farmers began shipping goods to New Orleans, including whiskey, tobacco, and hemp. By 1800 larger commercial mills were in operation at places like Lower Howards' Creek.

In 1810 the Third Census of the United States provided the following information: 719 looms produced 121,434 yards, at a value of \$45,537. Seven tanneries processed 3,085 hides and skins, worth \$9,255. There were 42,384 gallons of whiskey distilled at 44 distilleries, with a value of \$14,128. Other area products included rope, gunpowder, maple sugar, and salt-petre.

After Ms. Sipple's discussion, people began visiting the various stations set up throughout the museum's three floors.



Glen Richardson shapes a tool handle on the shaving horse.



Molly Stotts demonstrates carding and spinning different types of wool.

Agriculture in Clark County

The following Farmers' Market members presented demonstrations on these areas:

Tobacco—Jack Wise
 Hemp Products—Dolores Segress
 Hemp Walk—Joe Barnes
 Gourds—David Dearing
 Shaving Horse—Glen Richardson
 Woodworking—Justin Neal
 Moonshine Still—Kevin Palmer
 Corn—Ernie Barnes
 Mills—Larry Meadows
 Flint Knapping—Johnny Faulkner
 Antique Tools—Linn Insko and John Venable
 Honey Bees—Keith Green
 Soap—Terri Thomas
 Wool—Molly Stotts

The regular season for the Farmers' Market will begin the following Saturday, May 4, in the museum parking lot. Hours of operation will be Saturdays from 8:00-12:00, and Tuesdays from 4:00-6:00 p.m.



Above: Reagan Barnes grinds corn at Ernie Barnes's station.



Chief of Police Kevin Palmer discusses stills and the making of whiskey by pioneers.

Farmers' Market president Debbie Barnes was pleased with the turnout at the event. "We had a few people here who said either, 'I didn't know we had a Farmers' Market' or 'I didn't know we had a museum.' I was really happy."

The group also offered a Breakfast with the Farmer on Saturday, April 27. A good turnout of visitors learned more about the products and crops that will be offered throughout the season.



Below: Lynn Insko shares information about antique tools with visitors.

Exhibit Highlights Life of Former Educator

The newest exhibit in the museum focuses on the achievements and memorabilia of Evelyn M. Samuels, a long-time educator.

Miss Samuels served in Clark County schools for over forty-one years. She began teaching at Oliver Street School, but much of her career was spent at Hickman and Shearer Elementary Schools where she inspired many young readers as their librarian.

Miss Samuels was born in Winchester in 1928, the daughter of Thomas and Ethel Samuels. As a child she attended a county Rosenwald school. Thousands of these schools were established across the nation in the early 1900s to meet the educational needs of African Americans during those segregated days. Seed money was provided by Julius Rosenwald, part-owner and president of Sears, Roebuck & Company.

Clark County had three such schools: at Jouett's Creek, Goff's Corner, and Howard's Creek. Young Evelyn's second-grade report card shows she was a good student, earning all As in the subjects of Citizenship, Spelling, Reading, Writing, Arithmetic, Language, and Effort. Her teacher that year was E. B. Estill.

Miss Samuels graduated from Kentucky State College (now Kentucky State University) in 1948

and earned her masters degree in Library Science from the University of Wisconsin in 1962.

In addition to being a school librarian, she founded the church library at The First Baptist Church on Highland Street. A plaque from the church in her honor is part of the exhibit.

A few of the other items on display are her collection of souvenir spoons and fans with pictures of Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. and others. A large collage shows pictures of Miss Samuels throughout her life.

Evelyn Samuels was dedicated to her students and her church. Among other honors, she received the "key to the city" and was an honorable "Kentucky Colonel." Miss Samuels passed away in 2011.

The exhibit can be found in the first floor hallway.



Evelyn M. Samuels



The Evelyn M. Samuels exhibit features memorabilia she collected over the years.

Symposium (continued from p. 1)

The Civil War fort will be discussed by Jerry Raisor, curator for the Kentucky State Park system. It was one of several earthenwork forts constructed along the Kentucky River to deter Confederate raiders like John Hunt Morgan and Clark County's Roy Cluke from crossing into the Bluegrass region. Mr. Raisor was the person who first brought the fort's location and historical importance to the notice of the Clark County community. It has since become a popular site for tourists and school children alike.

Robert Bell is a familiar face to museum members, having appeared here several times as a speaker and as a Chautauqua character. For this year's symposium he will be appearing as Rev. Newton Bush, a slave who escaped to join the Union army and earn his freedom. Not only did he face the dangers of war, but he and his fellow soldiers in the 5th Regiment U. S. Colored Cavalry had to endure the hostility of many in the army.

Stuart Sanders is the author of *Perryville Under Fire: The Aftermath of Kentucky's Largest Civil War Battle*. It describes the overwhelming challenges faced by the civilian population of the area after the armies left. The battle occurred October 8, 1862 and resulted in more than 7,500 casualties,

and citizens had to bury soldiers, tend to the wounded, and rebuild destroyed property.

David Mowery will discuss his book *Morgan's Great Raid: The Remarkable Expedition from Kentucky to Ohio*. Confederate General John Hunt Morgan led his men on a quick and grueling raid through southern Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio during July of 1863 in the only battles fought north of the Ohio River. Many Clark County men rode with Morgan and were captured with him at Buffington Island in Ohio.

Mr. Sanders and Mr. Mowery will have book signings after their presentations.

The symposium will be held at the museum from 9:00-3:00 on June 1. The cost is \$20.00, which will include lunch. Registration is required and limited to 50 people on a first come, first serve basis. Call 745-1358 to sign up.



**Robert Bell as
Rev. Newton Bush**

Looking for that perfect birthday or graduation gift
for the history-lover in your life?

Visit the Museum Gift Shop!

Remember, museum members always get
a 10% discount!

MISSION STATEMENT

The Bluegrass Heritage Museum seeks to bring the history of the area to life for both young and old by collecting, preserving, interpreting, and exhibiting objects valuable to the history of Winchester, Clark County, and the region.

LEAVING A LEGACY

Have you ever considered planned giving for the Museum in your will? It's one way to continue your concern and appreciation for the past, that future generations may remember and learn from it.