

## 1 **NEXT MEETING:**

**Day and Time: October 9<sup>th</sup> at 6:00**

**Location: Kentucky Artisan Center (just off exit 77 of I-75)**

**Topic: Berea and the Battle of Richmond and Status of Battlefield Park by Robert Moody**

1 **SURNAME COMMUNICATION LINK:** Members have probably wondered why we request your surname interests on our Dues form. Well now you will find out. In an effort to help those genealogical researchers who list the same surname on their dues form as other members do, the Historical Society would like to link up the persons who are doing research on the same surname. But before we do that, we need to poll our members to see if they have any problem giving their name to another person who is doing research on the same surname. Therefore, any person who objects to this communication arrangement must contact the Historical Society by *November 1<sup>st</sup>* in writing (mail to MCHS, P. O. Box 397, Richmond, KY 40476); otherwise, your name and other contact information will be sent, as time permits, to others doing research on the same surname. We strongly feel that this surname communication linking effort will help numerous Society members and provide another service of membership we can offer. **What say you!**

1 **Miller Building Update:** Seven members of the Historical Society met in August with Paul Cable and Brad Black of CMW architectural firm which is developing a plan for the Madison County jail expansion. Many points were discussed concerning how the Miller Building can be preserved and incorporated into the expansion project. Consensus was reached that the Miller Building will be preserved in some capacity. The next step will be for members of the Historical Society's Preservation Committee, along with other preservationists, to meet informally with Judge Clark and members of the Fiscal Court to discuss ways to preserve the Miller Building. We will keep all members informed about this very important matter.

1 **We Want Your Stuff for the Battle of Richmond Museum:** Exhibit items for the newly remodeled Battle of Richmond museum and visitors center. Especially desirable are authenticated relics from the battle or artifacts associated with battle personnel or buildings. In addition to the museum, the Herndon house at Battlefield Park will be furnished as an 1862 farmhouse. Donations of antique furniture of the period either Empire or early Victorian style, will be displayed. Period household utensils and sewing-related items will be showcased. Anyone desiring to donate documented relics or period, furniture contact the County Judge Executive's Office at 859-624-4700. All donations are tax deductible.

[OVER]

1 **August Meeting Highlights:** The Historical Society had a very productive meeting and very well attended picnic at the historic Old Cane Springs Church on August 4<sup>th</sup>. Highlights of the meeting included:

1.) The Society has received from the City of Richmond a signed Donor Loan agreement for the furniture, etc. which came from Mt. Pleasant and is now on display at Irvington. 2.) Dr. James Murphy and Bob Moody were appointed by the Board to revise our current constitution and bylaws. 3.) Fiscal Court Magistrate Dr. William Tudor reported on the county's cemetery preservation project and the placing of flags on the graves of veterans in Madison County. 4.) A committee was appointed to study the idea of a Madison County Heritage Walk of Frame {see enclosed very tentative proposal}. Please direct any inquiries or suggestions to Charles Hay at the Historical Society's mailing address. 5.) Lee Cummings of the Preservation Committee reported about several preservation ideas, including working with local businesses that might donate products for persons interested in preserving their property. 6.) Treasurer Charles Hay reported that the Board determined to place all Society funds in a Money Market account with Madison Bank. Current balance is \$52,986.22. 7.) Charles reported on current membership statistics: Total dues paying members-213 (Berea-19, Richmond-127, Waco-2, rest of Kentucky-13, out-of-state-52). The Society has a total of 58 family, 97 individual, and 2 student members. 8.) Rita Smart, member of the Society's Preservation Committee, presented a delightful and informative program "To Preserve or Not to Preserve: The Status of Historic Preservation in Madison County."

**1 Battle of Richmond Historical Highway Marker in Berea:** The Historical Society, along with several donors, has received approval to place a historical highway marker in the future that outlines Berea's involvement with the Battle of Richmond. Tentative location of the marker will be at the yet-to-be-named Berea city park near the intersection of Boone and Chestnut streets. The marker will read:

THE BATTLE OF RICHMOND

(side two)

THE BATTLE OF RICHMOND  
KNOCKED AT BEREAS DOOR

THE BATTLE OF RICHMOND  
KNOCKED AT BEREAS DOOR

On the evening prior to the Battle of Richmond, Matilda Fee, wife of Berea College founder John G. Fee, was stopped, Military along with her two older children, while driving her carriage from Richmond to Berea. She assured Union pickets she was not a Confederate spy; a Union flag painted on the (U.S. 421), the Merritt Jones Tavern/Grant carriage helped to convince them and she was served allowed to pass. On the battle's first day, Fee and son Howard rode halfway from Richmond soldiers to Berea, but were forced to turn back after meeting retreating Union troops at Kingston. behind the area where the house was located.

Confederate troops passed through Berea via Chestnut and Prospect Streets prior to the Aug. 29-30, 1862, Battle of Richmond. traffic in and near Berea caused villagers to hear the Civil War "knocking at their east door." At Big Hill on the Old State Road House, later owned by Berea College, as a hospital for Confederate wounded who were returning to Tennessee. Thirteen who died there are buried in the woods

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