

Historical Society News Update

Summer 2007

□ At the June 12th meeting members present unanimously approved the following officers & board:

Officers

- 1. President—Phil Seyfrit—active member of the Battle of Richmond Association and program
Chair for the Madison County Civil War Round Table. He works for Curry, Parsons and Collins Funeral Home in Richmond.**
- 2. Vice President—William G. Adams—Retired professor of geography at Eastern Kentucky University and an active genealogist. He was responsible for getting the Beers 1876 map of Madison County published.**
- 3. Secretary—Bill Robinson—An avid history devotee and reporter for the *Richmond Register*.**
- 4. Treasurer—Charles Hay—Retired university archivist from EKU. Organized most Historical Society publications for the last 20 years. He has been very active with the Battle of Richmond Association.**

Board of Directors

- 1. Jackie Couture—Assistant University Archivist at EKU and editor of *Heritage Highlights*.**
- 2. Dean Whitaker—Member of the Madison County Civil War Round Table and employed by Sherwin-Williams in Richmond.**
- 3. Bob Moody—Retired lawyer, archeologist, very active member of the Battle of Richmond Association, and enthusiastic preservationist.**
- 4. Steve Connelly—Mayor of Berea and a very active historian, who possesses an M.A. degree in history from EKU.**

5. **Todd Moberly—History teacher at Madison Southern High School. He is a very creative historian who works closely with his students in promoting the study of Madison County history.**

□ **Membership** as of June 15th: **TOTAL—165 (Richmond-102, Berea-8, rest of Kentucky-8, out-of-state-42). Benefactors (\$100)-2; Patrons (\$50)-7, Other (\$30)-1.**

□ **Treasury balance as of June 15th: Regular checking—\$10,841.03 + a \$40,000 CD at Madison**

Bank. TOTAL: \$50,841.03. (Other assets not included in the treasury balance are ownership of Cane Springs Baptist Church, many articles of furniture, etc. on loan to the Richmond City Museum, numerous copies of the Richmond and Berea Cemetery inventories, Daniel Boone prints, and 1876 maps of Madison County). **A dues form will be included in this mailing if you have not paid your 2007 dues.**

□ **The Historical Society is cosponsoring with Berea Tourist and Convention Commission and others a series of historical programs on every Tuesday night at 7:30 in August at the new yet-to-be-named downtown city plaza at Chestnut and Boone Streets in Berea. A beautiful John G. Fee Memorial sculpture stands in the plaza.**

□ **The City of Richmond is working to restore the old brick sidewalk in front of the Richmond Cemetery. More than 3,000 bricks will be removed, cleaned, and reused on a newly poured sidewalk.**

□ **With the help of Bob Moody the location of Twitty's Fort, just off Duncannon Lane, was saved from destruction. Working with the property owner, a fence will be erected around the area and the land is now part of the Richmond Parks and Recreation system.**

□ **Work projects at Battlefield Park. At the Herndon property (Pleasant View farm) the house porch has been stabilized, new copper guttering, a new roof, brick point and tuck work is finished, a modern bathroom complex has been built, and a series of walking trails are being developed. Also, there are two bird blinds, built by an Eagle Scout, on the property. Work continues on meticulously rehabilitating the Rogers-Tribble House (Quarters 29), which will be used as the county's new Visitors Center. Additionally, the county has employed a museum design firm to develop plans for a museum that will also be located in Quarters 29. Critical new property around the Mt. Zion church has been acquired by the county. Living History Day in May was a great success. The Battle Reenactment will be August 25th & 26th.**

□ **The Historical Society with other partners is developing an idea to have a Walk of Fame for**

significant persons who have contributed to Madison County's history. The walk will have a plaque embedded in the sidewalk for each person and be located around the Madison County Courthouse.

- The Historical Society recently formed a Preservation Committee to oversee any preservation issues that might arise in the county. Currently, the Madison County Fiscal Court is developing plans for the historic Miller House. County Judge Executive Kent Clark has assured the Historical Society that it will have input in planning for incorporating the facade of the Miller Building into the jail expansion project. Since the building is in Richmond's newly formed H-1 Historic District, the county must present its plans to the city's Architectural Review Board for public discussion and approval.
- After nearly 90 years of operation Berea's historic Churchill Weavers has been closed. Fortunately, the Kentucky Historical Society has purchased the business's archives and the city of Berea acquired some company artifacts at an auction. At least some of this grand old business's memory will be preserved.
- A committee will be formed to revise our 1957 Constitution and By-Laws.
- An issue of our award-winning *Heritage Highlights* will come out late this Fall.
- Remember, the **next meeting** of the Historical Society will be our annual picnic on **August 4th** at 6:00 at the Cane Springs Baptist Church. Rita Smart, a member of the society's Preservation Committee, will talk about the current state of historic preservation in Madison County.