

Jessamine County Historical Society

Celebrating 45 years

Vol. 2 Issue 2

April 2014



New Members:
Wilma B. Moore
Constance Shotts
Michelle Thompson

Pioneer Designation Project

By Ernestine Hamm

Two of our cemeteries have been approved for Pioneer Cemetery designation. They are the Isaac Shelby Cemetery at High Point Golf Course and the Dickerson family cemetery at East Jessamine County Middle School. Dedication services to commemorate these designations will be held at a later date. Check our website for more details.

YARD SALE June 5th–8th 2014.

This is our largest fundraiser of the year. If you have items that you would like to donate please contact us at 859-885-6240 or they can be dropped off at our office at 216 N. Main St. Farmers Square Nicholasville, Kentucky any Thursday afternoon from 1- 3 pm.

Upcoming Speakers:

April 24th, 2014 meeting our speaker will be Phil Craft— Former state apiarist speaking on beekeeping.

May 22nd, 2014 meeting our speaker is Tracy Lucas, Camp Nelson Honor Guard.

Donations

Many thanks to Pete Sutherland for donating his mother, June Collins Evans Sutherland's family history and photos. This is the largest collection of photos ever donated to us. Included are the Young, Collins and Evans family Bibles. They are on display at the Historical Society.

Website Facelift

Our website www.jesshistorical.com has a new look and we hope you will take a peek. Thanks to Beverly Zuck for updating the site. She will be adding more information over the coming months. Check back often and see what is new.

She also established an e-mail for us. It is Jessaminehistorical@gmail.com.

President's Message

Wow, another quarter, and thanks to Newsletter Committee Chairwoman, Sherrell Brown, another newsletter. A big thank you to Ernestine Hamm for her work on the Pioneer Designation Project. Beverly Zuck deserves our thanks for her updating of our Website. Take a look and let us know what you like and what you would like to see added.

We have identified a contact person at the University of Kentucky Library for guidance and possible equipment grant for the oral history project. Also, sponsorship letters have gone out. We hope for a good response. Wish us luck.

Thank you for your continued membership and support.

Cemetery News

The George Stoval Smith cemetery rock wall has been restored. Mr. William H. Baile IV restored the five breaks in this old 1936 cemetery wall for an unbelievable price of \$500.00. He priced the job for \$800.00 but accepted the amount we raised. Thanks to all those who donated, Bob Wilson, Ben Wilson, Mary Caress, Alice Hills, David Schoumer, Richard Stowe, Howard Downing, and Connie Shotts. The before and after pictures below tell the story. We could not have done it without you.



Research at the Jessamine County Historical Society By Richard Lucas

The Jessamine County Historical Society is open Thursday afternoons for researchers to stop by and look for family, Jessamine County, Bluegrass, and Kentucky history. I am usually there along with several other members. I have had some luck finding information on my family's history.

For example, on one of the shelves in the Society's office space is a book entitled [A History of the Pioneer Families of Missouri](#). As both of my parents have Missouri roots I figured a perusal of this book might yield some useful information. When I discovered one of the authors was a Bryan I was even more hopeful. My mom is a descendant of William and Mary Boone Bryan, initial settlers of Bryan Station, Fayette County, Ky. Sure enough, I learned the initial author of the book, William Smith Bryan, is also descended from Morgan and Martha Strode Bryan, William Bryan's parents.

On another occasion I checked the index of [Calendar of The Kentucky Papers of the Draper Collection of Manuscripts](#) located on another shelf. I learned the Draper Collection has information not only on my mom's most famous ancestor on her father's line John Sevier, first governor of Tennessee (and one of the heroes of the Battle of Kings Mountain) but also mentions his son-in-law, Richard Campbell, my grandfather's great-great-grandfather.

Also on the shelves is [Genealogies of Kentucky Families from the Filson Club History Quarterly](#). In this volume I found Richard Campbell's father, Colonel Richard Campbell, mentioned as "the commander at Fort McIntosh, the first fortified spot on the north side of the Ohio and after leaving Fort Pitt." This volume also has information on the Bryan family lineage and Mary (Boone) Bryan's father and grandfather.

So you see, you never know what you will find. Come visit us some Thursday afternoon and see what you can find out about your family history.

The Jessamine County Historical society meets on the 4th Thursday of each month, except November and December.

The meetings are held at our office located at 216 North Main St., Farmers Square, Nicholasville, Kentucky.

2014 Meeting Dates:

April 24 th , 2014	May 22 nd , 2014
June - Picnic	July 24 th , 2014
August 28 th , 2014	Sept. 25 th , 2014
October 23 rd ,	Nov. No Meeting
December 6, 2014	Christmas Open House

Billy Jackson Bower Collection

Each newsletter we will feature one or a series of books among those we offer for sale. This month's feature is the Bower collection of 5 books for \$25.00. The set includes:

History of the Brannon Road—a book of historical maps, photographs of homes and churches, as well as family history of the area.

Mills, Murders and More - tells of the life and times of the notable and notorious. One of the more interesting stories is about a stabbing on Main Street.

Crossing the River - includes information on ferryboats, a cotton factory, horses, and a paper mill.

Ash Grove Pike, Catnip Hill Pike - tales of a tavern, historic homes, Marble Creek, an old schoolhouse and a meeting house.

Rails, Rivers, Roads - talks about a Dam, The Riney-B, Valley View Ferry, the Neet House and Shun Pike.

Officers:

Richard Lucas, President
 Jerry Brown, Vice President
 Pat Hunt, Treasurer
 Charlie Hamm, Secretary

Board Members:

Janelle Fain
 Sherrell Brown
 Ernestine Hamm

Mission statement:

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.



Jessamine County
Historical Society
216 North Main St.
Farmers Square
Nicholasville, Ky. 40356

Phone:
(859) 361-2867

E-mail:
jessaminehistorical@gmail.com

We're on the Web!
www.jesshistorical.com

Editor - Sherrell Brown

Membership Application

Annual Membership Fees:

Individual	\$20.00
Student	\$15.00
Lifetime	\$250.00

Date: _____

Name: _____

Street: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____

E-Mail: _____

Surnames Researching: _____

In Memory By Richard Lucas

Dr. David Cornelius McMurtry, former member of our Society, a past President of the Kentucky Genealogical Society, Boone Society Lexington Reunion Chairman (2008), author, speaker, educator, was called home March 13, 2014. David is my cousin several times removed, both of us descending from William and Mary (Boone) Bryan. He introduced me to Jessamine County Historical Society.

Dr. McMurtry retired as a teaching professor from the University of Kentucky, earning a PhD in Education from the University of Indiana, a Masters from the University of Kentucky and a Bachelors from Georgetown University. A native Kentuckian, he was born and raised in Harrison County. During World War II he served as a military Court Reporter at Fort Lee, VA. He was named a Kentucky Colonel twice. Mildred (Murray) McMurtry his wife, and David, his son both went to be with the Lord before him. He is survived by his daughter, Michele Ann McMurtry and her husband Timothy Morgan, daughter-in-law, Janice Jones McMurtry, granddaughter Alyson Michele McMurtry, and great-granddaughter Adyson Nicole Reisz.

David was a family historian, writing and publishing several books on the McMurtry, Bryan, Strode, Hunt and Fitzgerald families. He donated, among other items, his two most recent books, *Waveland, Home of the Bryans* and *Fairview, Home of the Bryans*, to our Society. He also lent us his expertise on the manor home Fairview a few months ago as guest speaker at one of our monthly meetings.

I, along with anyone who got to know him, miss him dearly. In the nearly eight years I knew him I never tired of introducing him as my cousin, a True Kentucky Gentleman.