

**GREATER JEFFERSONTOWN
HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER**

June 2014

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June 2014 Meeting

The June meeting will be Monday, June 2, 2014. We will meet at 7:00 P.M. in the meeting room of the Jeffersontown Library at 10635 Watterson Trail. The Greater Jeffersontown Historical Society meetings are now held on the first Monday of the even numbered months of the year. Everyone is encouraged to attend to help guide and grow the Society.

June Meeting

We are going to learn about the award winning Thoroughbred Chorus and then be entertained by them. The Thoroughbred Chorus was established in 1946 in Louisville as a member of what is now known as the Barbershop Harmony Society. The men originally met at the home of founder Fritz Drybrough and then for many years at the Rathskeller of the Seelbach Hotel in downtown Louisville, Kentucky. In 1978, The Thoroughbreds moved to the Old Lutheran Church building in Jeffersontown. It has since been renamed "Jim Miller Hall" to honor the late, great director of the chorus. They are a seven-time international champion chorus that is a part of the Barbershop Harmony Society. The Thoroughbred Chorus won the international championship in 1962, 1966, 1969, 1974, 1978, 1981, and 1984. The chapter has also produced several championship quartets including The Bluegrass Student Union, Interstate Rivals, Second Edition, and The Barons.

August Meeting

We are going to have the opportunity to visit the private museum in Soldier's Retreat that is now owned by Brooks and Marilyn Bower. The dates in August will be between August 18 to the 31st. We will have two visits for 15-20 persons each time and will be on a first come basis. I will have more information at the June meeting. GJHS members will have preference. You will need to call me after the June meeting. 491-6463

In Memorial

On Friday May 9, Angela First passed away. Angie was 85. She is survived by her sister, Dorothy, "Dottie" and two siblings. Angie and Dottie are among several of the founding members of GJHS and long-time residents of Jeffersontown. Her parents were Charles R. First, Sr. and Mary Ruckriegel First. Angela retired from Henderman, Jesse, and Company, PLLC and was graduated from Mercy Academy in 1947. When you read through the history of St. Edward Church in Jeffersontown, you will come across the First family name many times.

Jeffersontown Film

The City Council has commissioned a short film on Jeffersontown to be ready this fall. Tim Antkowiak, the film's producer, met with Mayor Dieruf, Beth Wilder, Missy Tapp, and Tim Hall to broadly plan the film, then Beth and I met with Tim a couple of weeks ago to help him refine its focus and go over a "script." Since then Beth has been pulling together photographs and history to be used in the film.

1888 Farmhouse at 6414 Billtown Road.

Some of you may already know about the old farmhouse in the photo that was set for demolition when Steve Porter found out about it. Dominion Homes bought the old Lowery flower farm and is putting in Hanover Trace Subdivision on about 40-45 acres. Steve felt there was absolutely no reason why this couldn't be saved, rehabbed and be a part of the subdivision. It has been vandalized, all the copper wiring and plumbing has been ripped out, it has a relatively new roof and a solid limestone block foundation. Rachel M. Kennedy, Senior Architectural Historian & Historic Preservation Planner with Corn Island Archaeology, setup a meeting with

Dominion Homes. Steve asked for GJHS support and Gary Kleier, a forensic architect, who only works on old structures, also attended the meeting. The house was in bad shape, but all of us felt it could be rehabbed at a cost. There had been a couple of out buildings, but since they all were under 600 sq. ft. Dominion had torn them down. The representatives of Dominion stated they were not in the business of rehabbing old homes; they built new homes and the old farmhouse was in the middle of the entrance road into the new subdivision.. Steve tried to convince them if rehabbed it would make a very nice entrance structure for the subdivision.

As of this writing Rachel has about completed a layout of the house and is researching its known history from deed books. All this will be used for a record of the house in the Jefferson County and state records of historic properties.

Kentucky Historical Marker for the Conrad-Seaton House Ann Bader has received approval from the state for a historical marker for the Conrad-Seaton House. It will probably be ready for installation by this fall. Jeffersontown has provided the funds for it,

April Meeting

Steve Wisner covered parts of his latest book, Historic Houses of Louisville that came out in 2013. Before he got started on his presentation we talked about the other many things Steve is involved in, like historic tours of Cave Hill Cemetery. The dates for this year are June 8, September 14, and October 26, all Sundays, 1 – 2 P.M., \$15/person.

One of the drivers to put together this book was the fact that Louisville has been rated as one of the best places in which to live. So where would you live?

The 1858 Bergmann map noted all the homes in Jefferson County. There are still probably hundred historic homes left in the county. Steve picked the forty-five homes by picking museum houses, those open to the public; legacy houses, houses that were first in an area and were important to the area's development; and bed and breakfast operations in historic houses. The houses represent all areas on the county and Southern Indiana.

The houses in his book are listed chronologically, except for the George Rogers Clark cabin, and follow the history of the region. The cabin, located at 1102 West Harrison Avenue in Clarksville is a replica cabin found in northern Indiana in 2001 for the bicentennial celebration of the Lewis and Clark expedition in 2003. It is similar to Clark's original cabin built at "Clark's Point" on the Indiana side of the Ohio River, just downstream of the Falls of the Ohio in around 1805-1808. Clark had an accident in 1809, severely injuring a leg that later had to be amputated. He left the cabin and went to live with his sister, Lucy Croghan, at Locust Grove. Clark died there in 1818. The cabin fell into disrepair and burned down in 1854.

Remember Clark landed on Corn Island in 1778. Some of the party later built the first Fort-on-Shore at Twelfth and Rowan Streets, then on to Fort Nelson at now 7th & Main. Louisville was chartered by Virginia in 1780, but not incorporated as a city in the Commonwealth of Kentucky until 1828. Clark up to 1809 had lived several places, but preferred the cabin.

Locust Grove was built in 1790. William Croghan married Lucy Clark in 1789 at her parent's home, Mulberry Hill. Croghan was a surveying partner to George Rogers Clark. The house was visited by many distinguished individuals, including Zachary Taylor, who lived nearby, Gen. Andrew Jackson, Aaron Burr, John James Audubon, and William Clark made Locust Grove his the final stop on his Northwest Expedition of Discovery. The house fell into great disrepair over the years until Louisville Metro rescued it in 1961.

Locust Grove is a sister house to Soldier's Retreat, built by Richard Anderson in 1793, and to the Peter Funk House, ca.1795, located at the corner of Taylorsville Road and Hurstbourne Parkway. As the Funk children married, the Funk land was divided. Alfred and Harriet's house, Nunnlea, was built ca.1855 and is now owned by Jefferson County. James and Mary Yenowine Funk's house, now known as the Bickel House, was built ca.1860-1865, was later owned by the Bickel family, then sold to a developer and was moved over by the Target store on Taylorsville Road.

There were five Hikes houses around and along Hikes Lane in the Buechel area, but when the John E's Restaurant was demolished, almost without notice in August 2013, there became four. According to Steve how it slipped through the cracks started with the property being listed on the Metro property evaluation list as being built in 1958 which is when the building was expanded. It was built around 1830. The Notice for Demolition sign was posted inside the restaurant not out near the road where it should have been. No one seems to know how that happened? Do you believe that? By the time the preservation community found out about the demolition, it was well under way. And while some were at the site, the contractor who had bought the huge original logs was there taking them away. A Hikes family grave site still remains.

The James Irwin house was originally built ca.1840, by Enoch and Susan Lockhart, is located at 2910 Northwestern Parkway at the southern end of the K & I Railroad Bridge in the Portland neighborhood. Lockhart was the superintendent of the reconstruction of the locks of the Louisville & Portland Canal. James Irwin, a steamboat captain, who owned a fleet of steamboats purchased it in 1867 and had noted architect Henry Whitestone add two wings and change the east facing entrance to the north.

Anchorage Place at 804 Evergreen Road in Anchorage was constructed ca.1868 by James Winder Goslee, another steamboat captain. It was based on a design by Andrew Jackson Downing who also influenced the Brown House, 1852, the yellow B&B on Hubbards Lane, and the Hurstbourne Country Club original building in 1853. Downing was the chosen designer of New York's Central Park, before he drowned at age 37 and Fredrick Law Olmsted took over the project. Anchorage Place was completely redone in 2013.

Goslee had a plantation before the Civil War, and after the war when all his slaves were freed, he couldn't maintain his operation and he sold 129 acres to Edward Hobbs, a surveyor, land planner, and president of the old Lexington Railroad. Goslee built a new house, and being a steamboat pilot, he named it Anchorage.

The railroad station in the area became known as Hobbs Station, but Hobbs didn't like it, so he placed an anchor at the train station and called the station Anchorage after his friend, Goslee.

Goslee also bought a meat packing business in Butchertown. He rode the train into town every day. One day, engrossed in reading the newspaper, the train pulled out and Goslee realized it. He ran to get on, fell under the train and was killed on April 2, 1875. Goslee was first buried in the Hobbs family cemetery, but later reinterred in Cave Hill.

The Howard-Hardy at 430 So. Second Street was originally built ca.1830. John Howard married Annie Bullitt, so the house has a connection to Oxmoor House. Most people know the location as Miller's Restaurant after the family that built an addition on the front of the house in 1906. That addition was removed in 2004 exposing the federal style townhouse. The interesting fact is the Howard-Hardy is one of the few historic houses in Louisville that still has its original slave quarters attached to it intact. The property had been owned by Christ Church Cathedral that sold it at auction in 2013. The plans for that buyer to turn it into a private residence or B&B fell through, and it is back on the market. Its biggest problem is it has no on-site parking.

The Zachary Taylor House, Springfields, on Apache Road was built ca.1790. The April 3, 1974 tornado severely damaged the house – the entire roof was ripped off. Political cartoonist, Hugh Haynie, owned the house at the time and lovingly restored it.

Soldier's Retreat is a re-creation of the original house built by Richard Anderson in 1793. The original house burned in 1847. Developer, builder Leroy Highbaugh reconstructed the house on the original foundation. It is similar in design to Locust Grove and the Peter Funk house. It is now owned by Brooks and Marilyn Bower who have invited GJHS to visit their private museum of artifacts from the property. See August meeting paragraph. The son of Richard and his second wife is Robert Anderson the commandant of Fort Sumter when the Civil War began.

The Fehr House was the home of Frank Fehr of Fehr's Beer fame. It is at 2724 Lexington Road. Fehr's Brewery founded in 1872, was the largest in Kentucky at one time. It closed in 1964 and was located where Dosker Manor is on Liberty Street. Italian artisans lived in the 9,000 sq. ft. house during its construction in 1913.

The Conrad-Caldwell, 1893, on St. James Court in Old Louisville, and the Ouerbacker-Clement House on West Jefferson in Louisville's west end, are similar designs. The Conrad-Caldwell was built on land that held the Southern Exposition in 1813-1837. The Ouerbacker-Clement had fallen into great despair and is planned to be rehabbed into apartments.

Clarke and Loomis Architects who designed the Conrad-Caldwell house also designed DuPont Manual High School, U of L Medical School building, Levy's Dry Goods building, St. Peter's Church in the West End, and the Bacon House among many others in Louisville.

Culbertson mansion in New Albany, 1867-69, has 25 rooms in 20,000 sq. ft. and was built by William Culbertson, a dry goods merchant, who also invested wisely.

The Little Loom House, constructed in the late 1860s, is on Kenwood Hill Road. It is supposed to be the place where the Hill sister's famous song, Happy Birthday, was first sung.

The cover shot for the book was taken in the library of the Oxmoor House on the Bullitt Farm. It is considered to be the largest private library in the state with over 9,000 books. The original house was constructed in 1791, and expanded in 1829, 1915, 1925, and 1928. It is the last large farm in Jefferson County, still containing several hundred acres that are visible on the north side of I-64 just east of the Watterson X-way.

Joseph Boulet left France and settled in Maryland in 1685. His son, Benjamin moved to Virginia and changed his name to Bullitt in order to fight on the British side in the French and Indian Wars. It is now owned by the Thomas W. Bullitt Perpetual Charitable Trust.

Contact Us

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