



Quarterly Newsletter of the Foundation for Restoration of Ste. Genevieve, Inc.

Spring 2011

Calendar

UPCOMING EVENTS

March 17 – Board Meeting 7 PM at Keil Schwent

March 19 – Cleanup day at the Guibourd

March 26 – Mecker Library Book Sale 9-4 at KS Week -day hours begin at Guibourd

April 2 - Mecker Library Book Sale 9-4 at KS

April 14 - Speaker's Bureau talk 6:30 PM at

Perryville Library
April 28 – Foundation Lecture at 7PM Patke Room

May 14 & 15 - Garden Walk plant sale at the Guibourd

May 19 – Board Meeting 7 PM Keil Schwent

Other Area Events

École du Soldat April 16 & 17 - SG

May 14 & 15 – Garden Walk in SG

SAVE THE DATE

Foundation Annual Meeting
Sun, July 17 3-5 PM
Ste. Genevieve County
Community Center

Ste. Genevieve
History Conference
Sat, Sep 17th, 8 am-5pm
Ste. Genevieve County
Community Center

2010 Christmas Gala and Award Presentation

The Foundation for Restoration of Ste. Genevieve announced several awards at its annual Christmas gathering on Sunday, December 5th. The Koetting Family was recognized with the Foundation's 2010 Distinguished Service Award. The Koettings have been associated with the Foundation for Restoration since its founding in 1967. Several generations of Koettings have served on the Foundation's Board of Directors as well as serving in various officer and committee positions. The award was presented to Mrs. John F. Koetting and Jack and Mickey Koetting.

The Foundation honored two local businesses with Harry B. and Constance Matthews Preservation Awards. The Michael and Barb Hankins were honored for their past restoration of the Southern Hotel and for continuing its use as a premier B&B. Ken and Karen Kulberg were honored for their past restoration of the Main Street Inn, another Ste. Genevieve premier B&B, and their recent renovation of the building located at 188 N. Main. Through the efforts of the Hankins and Kulbergs, these buildings will continue to be used and enjoyed by visitors and Ste. Genevieve townspeople for years to come. Both are great examples of preserving historic buildings as businesses.

Lisa Dretke, a masters student at Illinois State University was awarded the Foundation's 2010 Educational Research Award and a \$1000 stipend for her thesis entitled "Ziegler's Impact of Germans on the Ste. Genevieve Culture 1833 - early 20th Century". The thesis is based on work done at the Janis-Ziegler Green Tree Tavern under the direction of local resident, Dr. Elizabeth Scott. On completion, a copy of the thesis will be made available at the Foundation's Mecker Research Library in Ste. Genevieve.



Dr. Ekberg Publishes New Book

The colonial Ste. Genevieve scholar, Dr. Carl Ekberg, has published a new book titled "A French Aristocrat in the American West – The Shattered Dreams of De Lassus de Luzières".

The book details the history of Pierre de Hault de Lassus, a Frenchman, who fled revolutionary France with his family and eventually ended up in the mid-Mississippi Valley. Dr. Ekberg explores the ambitions of de Lassus as he founded the town of Nouvelle Bourbon just two miles south of Ste. Genevieve. For his efforts, he was named Commandant and Military Commander of this special district. However, his initiatives eventually failed and the town of New Bourbon has all but disappeared from history.

As in his past books on Ste. Genevieve and its people, Dr. Ekberg has based on the book on meticulous historical research and he uses these documents to bring de Lassus to life for the book's readers.

This book and others related to Ste. Genevieve history can be purchased online at Ste. Genevieve tourism website at <http://www.visitstegen.com/mercantile/mercantile1.html>.

More events @
HistoricSteGen.org

New Collections Announced

The Foundation's Board recently adopted a resolution to develop two new collections. One will be called the Lucille Basler and Rob Beckerman Genealogy Collection. Lucille was an avid collector and publisher of Ste. Genevieve genealogy materials. Rob authored a number of books on Ste. Genevieve cemeteries and family genealogies. Rob's parents had donated his extensive genealogy collection to the Foundation after his death. The other collection will be named the Stanley Drury Photograph and Document Collection. Both of these collections will help us fulfill one of the Foundation's missions and that is: To collect and preserve old homes, ships, maps, letters, and other documents, antiques, and other museum pieces to promote on the part of present and future generations, a greater interest in the history of the formative period of our nation, state, County, and City of Ste. Genevieve, and the Mississippi River area. The Foundation is now accepting documents, photographs, and genealogy records for these collections. If you wish to donate materials, please call the Foundation at 573-883-9622 or email info@historicstegen.org

Visit from a French Guibourd

Georges Guibourd, a grandson of our Jacques Guibourd, visited Ste. Genevieve in 1876.

Georges was the son of Omer Guibourd who had immigrated to France in 1843 after the death of his mother, Ursula Barbeau Guibourd. Georges arrived in New York on July 5, 1876 aboard the steamship Amerique. He was 26 years old at the time and had traveled from his home near Nantes, France to New York via Le Harve, France and Plymouth, England.

His visit to his ancestral American home was relayed in the August 3, 1876 Ste. Genevieve Fair Play.

Another descendant of Jacques Guibourd, the great grandson of Georges whose name is also Jacques Guibourd de Luzinai visited Ste. Genevieve in 1991. He and his new bride were here on their honeymoon and spent a night in the home of his first American ancestor.

2011 Ste. Genevieve History Conference

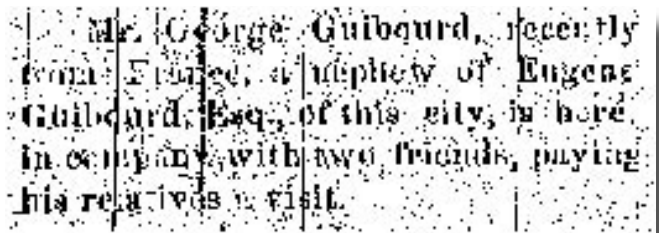
As a result of the overwhelming success of the 2010 Ste. Genevieve Conference, the Foundation will again host the History conference on September 17, 2011 at the Ste. Genevieve County Community Center from 8 am to 5 pm. A reception will be held for event participants on the evening before. A continental breakfast and lunch will be provided. A tour of Memorial Cemetery and the Catholic Church will be offered on Sunday.

If you have a paper or presentation that you would like to have considered for inclusion in the conference, please refer to the instructions at HistoricSteGen.org. Additional information will be available in the Summer edition of the Publicité.

Quote from the Past:

“Only at Ste. Genevieve, do you begin to find some urbanity, unaffected politeness, and openness, which offer to the traveler some promise of comfort and hospitality”

Nicolas de Finiels, from the 1803 book “An Account of Upper Louisiana”



Update: NPS Ste. Genevieve Study

The National Park Service continues work mapping resources and preparing the 'Suitability and Feasibility' portions of the National Park Service's study of Ste. Genevieve. On completion, the report will be sent to Washington for review and consideration for acceptance into the NPS. The NPS will then begin the long process of preparing Ste. Genevieve's 'Management Alternatives'. The Foundation continues to provide information and resources from the Mecker Research Library to support the writing of the Significance section of the study by Dr. Bonnie Stepenoff, professor of history at Southeast Missouri State University.

Speakers' Bureau

The Speakers Bureau has been active with talks being given at Chester and Ste. Genevieve on our French and German Christmas Customs. A new talk, Tales of Love and Romance in 19th Century Ste. Genevieve was given at the Felix Vallé House during their annual Felix Vallé birthday party and "Gardening and Agriculture in Colonial Ste. Genevieve" was given at the Ste. Genevieve County Extension Council annual dinner. The Colonial Gardening and Agriculture talk will again be presented at the Perryville Library on Thursday, April 15 beginning at 6:30 PM. Jim Baker will be presenting his talk on Pelagie Vital at the March 17th Randolph County Historical Society dinner at the Chester KC Hall.



Improvements at the Guibourd

We are pleased to announce that the Foundation has received a grant in the amount of \$2250 from the Ste. Genevieve County Community Development Fund (the Holcim fund) for installation of the wheelchair lift, generously donated by Tim Conley, at the Guibourd House. We have started the process of getting quotes for the electrical and mechanical portions of the installation.

Books Needed for Book Sale!

The Mecker Research Library committee will hold a book sale on Saturday, March 26, 2011 from 9 AM to 4 PM and again on April 2nd at the same time in the Keil Schwent House at 98 S. 2nd Street. Donations of books for the sale are needed. If you have books to donate, please call the Foundation at 573-883-9622 or email info@historicstegen.org to arrange delivery. Books of all types of genre are needed. Volunteers are also needed to set up and conduct the sale. Please call or email the office if you can help. All proceeds from the events will be for the benefit of the Mecker Research Library.

Ste. Genevieve County Fairs

Most of us have attended the Ste. Genevieve County Fair up in the City Park. Some of us might have even attended a fair or circus out at what was known as Rozier Park. That park was located where Klein's drug store and several banks now stand. But did you know that the first county fair was held in 1875 and was sponsored by the Ste. Genevieve Agricultural and Mechanical Association.

Their announcement of the upcoming fair appeared in the Jul 8, 1875 *Ste. Genevieve Fair Play*. It read "The Ste. Genevieve Agricultural and Mechanical Society have purchased 40 acres of land from Charles H. Gregoire, in the southern portion of the city of Ste. Genevieve – an intend to hold their "First Annual Fair" sometime in September next. The grounds cannot be excelled – they are level and beautifully situated. They included a magnificent Grove. The race track will be the most attractive in MO. In fact, no other fair grounds in Southeast Missouri can compare with the above.

The September 9, 1875 Fair Play reported: "The grounds are already enclosed, and the larger portion of the buildings are up. The amphitheatre, pagoda, and ticket office are the only remaining buildings to be constructed, and some of them have already been commenced. The larger portion of the stalls are nearly complete and in the course of a couple of week, the entire work will be finished.

If anyone has photographs of this early fair or others of the time period, please contact the Foundation at 573-883-9622 or email: info@historicstegen.org.



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Visit HistoricSteGen.org

The Foundation has a new website, it's address (URL) is

HistoricSteGen.org

That's all you need for news of events and happenings around Ste. Genevieve. Our newsletter is now available on the Newsletters page of the site. The Calendar of Events is updated continuously by many different sources around town, so you'll be able to keep up on the latest events. Our newly published Preservation, Awards & Grants and Mecker Library gives even more news, information and images about our historic town.

We now offer the Publicite via email! We hope that you choose this option as this is the most economical and timely manner of providing information about the Foundation and upcoming events to you. The cost of printing, packaging and mailing hard copies of the Publicite continues to rise and we feel these funds could be better spent for the organization's preservation and restoration efforts.

If you would like to receive the Publicite via email, please send an email to info@historicstegen.org and indicate that you would like to receive the Publicite or go to HistoricSteGen.org and select the CONTACT button to indicate your participation. The Foundation values your trust and WILL NOT sell, trade, solicit or provide your personal information to others.

WE PROMISE!

Cover art: Detail of Ste. Genevieve, Missouri mural on the Missouri State Capitol building.
Any article submitted for inclusion in this publication must be made in writing, either hardcopy or electronically, to the FRSG no later than Feb 1st (Spring issue), May 1st (Summer issue), Aug 1st, (Autumn issue) or Nov 1st (Winter issue). Submissions must be approved by the FRSG and may be edited for content at their discretion.

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