



Publicité

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

Winter 2009

Calendar

EVENTS

Ste. Genevieve Country Christmas Walk

Sat/Sun, Dec 6th & 7th
Where: Downtown Ste Gen

SG Christmas Parade

When: Sat Dec 6th 10am
Where: Downtown Ste Gen
Note: Wear Historical Costumes

Christmas Open House

When: Sat, Dec 6th, 6-9pm
Where: Guibourd-Vallé House

French & German Christmas Customs Lecture

When: Sat, Dec 6th, 2pm
Where: Felix Valle' SHS

FRSG Christmas Gala

When: Sun, Dec 7th, 6pm
Where: Hotel Ste. Genevieve

Le Réveillon

When: Sun, Dec 14th, 1-5pm
Where: Felix Valle' SHS

La Guignolée

When: Wed, Dec 31st, NY Eve
Where: Various locations
Historic Ste. Genevieve

King's Ball

When: Sat, Feb 7th, 7pm
Where: Ste Genevieve VFW Hall

MEETINGS

Board of Directors Meeting

When: Thu, Nov 20th at 7pm
Where: Kiel-Schwent House

Board of Directors Meeting

When: Thu, Jan 15, 2009 at 7pm
Where: Kiel-Schwent House

Booker's 'Stories in Stone' Presentation

On Thursday, October 23rd, the Foundation for Restoration of Ste. Genevieve offered a free public program on Ste. Genevieve's Memorial Cemetery. The program was given by B.H. "Booker" Missouri Department of Nat- and project manager on the tive.

Booker's "Stories in Stone," facts and peculiarities about the monuments there, and not so famous buried there. readily apparent to the ca-

Dessert and coffee were en- presentation. Thanks to Ellie program, the Felix Valle State Historic Site for the use of their facility and projec- tor, and Booker Rucker for giving the attendees a very interesting and informative presentation.



B.H. "Booker" Rucker
photo: Ste Genevieve Herald

Rucker, former chief of the ural Resources historic sites cemetery restoration initia-

talk highlighted unique Missouri's oldest cemetery, the lives of the famous and Many of these facts are not sual visitor to the cemetery.

joyed by the guests after the Douglass for arranging the

Academy Celebrates It's 200th Anniversary

On October 3rd, Frank and Annette Rolfe hosted a celebration of the 200th anniversary of the Ste. Genevieve Academy. The Rolfes, current owners of the Academy, opened their restored home to a large gathering of dignitaries and guests.

The Ste. Genevieve Academy was chartered by an act of the Louisiana Territory Legislature on June 18, 1808. Prior to this time, a meeting of those who subscribed to financially back the institution was held in September 1807. A Board of Trustees was elected at this meeting. Members included Rev. James Maxwell, Jean B. Valle, Jacques Guibourd, St.Gemme Beauvais, Francois Janis, J. B. Pratte, Dr. Walter Fenwick, Andrew Henry, Timothy Phelps, Aaron Elliot, Nathaniel Pope, Joseph Spencer, John Scott, William James, Thomas Oliver, Joshua Penneman, William Shannon, George Bullit, Henry Dodge, and Henry Diel.

In 1810, the first teacher, Mr. Daniel Barry, esq. was hired and he agreed to "undertake to teach English, French, Latin, Greek, Mathematics, Arithmetic, Surveying, Logic, Metaphysics, Geography, History, Natural and Moral Philosophy, agreeably to a prospectus already exhibited; for the sum of 1,100 dollars for the first year ye will superintend the education of 45 students". Unfortunately, he apparently left after the first year and was replaced by Mr. Mann Butler in 1812. Butler remained until 1814. Soon thereafter, Father Maxwell died and the building was sold. The School operated again during the period 1819 to 1822 with education provided by the Christian Brothers.

The continued existence of this marvelous structure was not always assured. Edmund Flagg in his 1838 "Travels in the West" described the Ste. Genevieve Academy in the following manner:

article continued on page 4

Ste. Genevieve Country Christmas Walk

The annual Ste. Genevieve Country Christmas Walk will be held on Saturday, December 6th and Sunday December 7th.

The weekend will begin with the annual Christmas parade on Saturday featuring Santa and Mrs. Klaus. Foundation members dressed in historical costumes are welcome to participate in the parade and provide candy to the children. The parade will start at 10:00 am from the Valle School 'desert'. Please call Bob Mueller at 573-883-3290 by December 5th if you plan to participate.

Also on Saturday, the Felix Valle' State Historic Site will present a talk on Ste. Genevieve's French and German Christmas traditions at 2:00 p.m. Be sure to sample the croquinoles, or French crullers, while you're there.

The beautifully decorated Linden House will be open to the public on both Saturday and Sunday. Refreshments and cookies will be served.

The Foundation's historic Guibourd Vallé house will host their holiday open house on Saturday evening from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. Come celebrate the Christmas season with Foundation Board members and enjoy the cider and cookies.

On Sunday, the Ste. Genevieve Church Bell Choir, a highlight of Ste. Genevieve's Christmas season, will perform at 3:00 p.m. at the Catholic Church on Dubourg Place. Following their performance, the Ste. Genevieve Band and the Ste. Genevieve Choir will present a Christmas musical medley.

The Foundation for Restoration will top off the Christmas Walk weekend with their annual Christmas Gala at the Ste. Genevieve Hotel at 6:00 p.m. on Sunday December 7th. Come join us for hors d'oeuvres, dinner, and Christmas music by Lynn Rose Terry and Jack Koetting. In addition, the annual Foundation Service Award will be given, as well as the first ever Foundation for Restoration Educational Research Award.

An Early Ste. Genevieve Christmas Eve

The young, Henri Marie Brackenridge, sent by his father to learn French in Ste. Genevieve wrote about his time here in the early 1790's. In his book, "Recollections of Persons and Places in the West", Brackenridge describes a Christmas Eve experience in the new town's log church. Though not Catholic before arriving in Ste.



Henri Marie Brackenridge

Genevieve, Madame Ste. Gemme Beauvais with whom he lived, required that he be baptized. He did well in his French studies and his newly adopted religion. Later, he writes "The priest had chosen me as one of the boys appointed to serve at the altar, which was no small honor, and besides, entitled me to a larger share of the pain beni, or blessed bread."

It was traditional in early Ste. Genevieve times for the residents to attend midnight mass (le Messe de Minuit) and one can imagine Henri walking up the snow covered street from the St. Gemme Beauvais house to prepare the church for the upcoming mass. He recalls "At Christmas eve it was the custom to keep the church open all night, and at midnight to say mass. On this occasion, I found myself alone for nearly an hour before that time, seated on a high chair or stool, with a cross in my hand, in front of the altar, which was splendidly decorated, and lighted with the largest wax candles the village could afford."

After mass, young Henri and his adopted family would have left the church singing the traditional song "Il Est Ne, Le Divin Enfant" (He is born, the Divine Child) On arriving back at the Beauvais home, they would have continued Christmas with a Le Réveillon celebration. It typically included a meal of roast turkey or goose, tourtiere (pork pie), smoked sausage or boudin noir, bouillon, cheese and bread. In addition, the traditional 13 sweets were served in honor of Christ and his apostles. These may have included la bûche de Noël (chocolate cake in the shape of a log), sugared pecans, tartlette de noix noire (black walnut tart), pound cake, mincemeat pie, mandeleines, pain d'épice (gingerbread), Sablé Normand (sugar cookies), gâteau au sirop (cane syrup cake), tarte aux pommes (apple cake), croquinoles (French crullers), and croquembouche (cream puffs with caramel glaze). As in most French homes of the era, music and singing were enjoyed by all.

Best wishes from the Foundation for Restoration during this holiday season. We hope you have a Joyeux Noël just as Henri Marie Brackenridge did over 200 years.

2008 Spirit Reunion

A déjà vu Spirit Reunion was held in Memorial Cemetery by Foundation volunteers on Saturday, October 11th as part of Ste. Genevieve's Autumn Daze celebration. Visitors were treated to a candlelight tour of the Memorial Cemetery and were able to converse with spirits of persons buried there. Costumed spirits related stories of famous and not so famous persons from Ste. Genevieve's early days. During the spirit reunion, haunting bagpipe melodies drifted down through the cemetery from the location of the Scotsman, John Henderson's tomb.

Those participating in the Spirit Reunion were Mickey Koetting, Sally Rozier, Pete Rozier, Ellie Douglass, John Orem, Gary Scheel, Bob Schmidt, Annette Rolfe, Al Kaiser, Donna Roush, Lu Ann Huck, Allender Huck, Bob Mueller, Jim Clark, Lu Clark and Sam Sampson.

Thanks also to Vernetta Heil and Linda Mueller for their help at the gate. A special thanks goes out to Mary Thrasher (pictured right) who provided the wonderful bagpipe music.

The Foundation's Spirit Reunion program was a recipient of a Missouri Humanities Council Award during 2007.

Foundation Needs Volunteers!

The Foundation for Restoration of Ste. Genevieve is a not-for-profit 501c(3) organization dedicated to preserving the history of Ste. Genevieve. We operate for the most part on the generous contributions of time by a number of volunteers. In order to better meet our charter and goals of the organization, we need additional volunteer help.

The Foundation currently has the following committees:

- Memorial Cemetery Restoration
- Mecker Research Library
- Membership
- Marketing and Publications
- Guibourd Vallé House
- Kiel Schwent House
- Educational Research Award
- Finance
- Programs

Volunteers are both needed and welcome for any of these committees.

We also need volunteers for cleanup sessions at the Memorial Cemetery, the Guibourd-Valle house and the Kiel Schwent house. Other opportunities include decorating the buildings for the holidays or for various programs. Any help that you can give would be most appreciated.

If you are interested and can provide some support to your organization, please call Ann Casada, Foundation Secretary, at 573-883-9622, email the Foundation at sgfoundation@brick.net or call Bob Mueller at 573-883-3290.

Volunteers Clean Memorial Cemetery

A number of Foundation and public volunteers conducted a general cleanup day at the Memorial Cemetery on October 9th. The event was organized by the Memorial Cemetery Committee co-chairs, John Karel and Bob Kist. The volunteers picked up trash both inside and outside the cemetery, removed limbs and twigs, removed grass from tombstones, and cut down a dead tree. A number of loads of debris were hauled to the town leaf and limb disposal site.



Mary Thrasher
photo: B.Mueller

In addition to Bob and John, the volunteers included Mickey Koetting, Jack Koetting, Teddy Ross, Chuck Houchin. Carol Naeger, Chris Helms, Matt Meyer, William Winters, Andrew Wibbenmeyer, Zach Ryan, and Bob Mueller.

Ste Genevieve Sons of Union Veterans

Gary Scheel, a Foundation member, is seeking persons interested in forming a Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War Camp to be located in Ste. Genevieve. There are 11 SUV camps currently in Missouri and Gary is hoping to start one here. Gary plans to name his unit after Lt. Colonel Joseph Felix St. James of the 13th Missouri Infantry. St. James died at the Battle of Shiloh and is buried in an unmarked grave here in our Memorial Cemetery. Ste. Genevieve's Grand Army of the Republic Post was named in Col. St. James honor.

If you are interested in becoming a Charter Member of this camp or have questions about membership, please contact Gary Scheel at 573-883-9397 or email him at somewhere1@sbcglobal.net. Gary and his wife, Mary, are owners of Somewhere Inn Time B&B here in Ste. Genevieve.

Get Ready for the 2009 King's Ball

The annual King's Ball will be held at the VFW in Ste. Genevieve on Saturday February 7, 2009 beginning at 7:00 p.m. Enjoy an evening of festivities and dancing in the spirit of old Ste. Genevieve. Many come dressed in historic clothing but that is not required. The 2008 Queen, Patti Naeger, and her king, Bill, will be retiring during the evening. A new King will be selected in the traditional manner of finding a small statue in a piece of cake. The new King will then select his queen and together they will reign over Ste. Genevieve for the coming year. For more information on the Ball, contact event organizers Mickey Koetting at 573-883-5850 or Ellie Douglass at 573-883-2099.



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2008-2009

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Academy (continued from page 1)

“Upon this site was erected a handsome structure of stone commanding a noble prospect of the river, the broad American Bottom on the opposite side, and the bluffs beyond the Kaskaskia. It was intended for a literary institution: but owing to unfavorable reports with regards to the health of its situation, the design was abandoned and the edifice was never completed. It is now in a state of “ruinous perfection” and enjoys the reputation, moreover, of being haunted. In every sooth, its aspect, viewed from the river at twilight, with its broken windows outlined against the western sky, is wild enough to warrant such an idea or any other.”

However, this was not to be the end of the building. From 1854 to 1861, the school was reopened by Firmin Rozier who subsequently turned the building into his private family residence. His children lived in the structure until 1934 when it was sold to the Ste. Genevieve Board of Education. In 1991, the Board donated the building and one acre of ground to the State of Missouri and in 1994, Tim Conley purchased the property and undertook an extensive renovation. In 2005, Frank and Annette Rolfe purchased the home and completed additional renovations.

The Rolfes graciously provide tours of the structure and host events such as the 200th anniversary event so that the public may still enjoy this Historic Register building. Their efforts to restore this building are most appreciated.

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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