



Publicité

Spring

2021

Upcoming Foundation Events

- Jul 18 Annual Membership Meeting
- Sep 17 History Conference Reception
- Sep. 18 History Conference
- Oct 23 Déjà vu Spirit Reunion
- Dec. 12 Foundation Christmas Party
- Feb 5 King's Ball

PRESIDENT SKIP OFFERS HISTORIC RESTORATION TOUR FOR SPRING MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Members who attended the Spring Meeting got a first hand look at the restoration effort of one of his ancestors' historic home out on Highway 32 on Sunday. After enjoying lemonade, snacks, and a short meeting, in which Skip brought everyone up to date on the Foundation's ongoing projects, and future calendar events, he led groups of people through the various rooms. After the tour, people hung around and socialized. Everyone there was impressed and complimented Skip on the restoration. Below are some before and after pictures.



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE CEMETERY?

Chelsi Montgomery, Cemetery Committee Chair wanted to bring our members up to date on happenings in Memorial Cemetery.

A tree was planted on November 30th in honor of Missouri's Bicentennial. The tree, a burr oak provided by Rob Roy Nursery, was appropriately planted near the gravestone of John Ferguson Scott. Scott served as Missouri's Territorial representative to Congress during the statehood process. He also served as Missouri's first United States Congressional Representative after statehood was achieved.

A Facebook page titled **Memorial Cemetery of Ste. Genevieve** was created in December. The goal is to make information more easily accessible to the public and to reach a larger audience. The page currently has nearly 400 followers and has been met with much excitement and enthusiasm.

We have applied for a grant through the William G. Pomeroy Foundation's Legends & Lore Marker Grant Program. The program is designed to promote cultural tourism and commemorate legends and folklore as part of our heritage. We submitted the legend of Senator Linn and the Weeping Cherry Tree. If our application is approved, the entire cost of a specialized marker (to be placed near Senator Linn's grave) will be covered by the Pomeroy Foundation. We should know more by the end of June.

Jacob's Ladder Cemetery Restoration Specialists, located near Huntsville, Missouri, toured the cemetery in January 2021. They provided a presentation of their services to the Foundation and the public in late March. The board approved them to begin work in the cemetery starting in June. Foundation members and the public are encouraged to stop in to see the progress in person and meet the crew.

A new cemetery map is being created based off of previous versions, with updated information.

A bid was accepted for stump removal, which is currently in progress.

Records from Mr. Booker H. Rucker's gravestone documentation of Memorial Cemetery have been digitized. Work to continue photographing and documenting is beginning this summer, as is cleaning of the stones.

Speakers Available for a Song

Do you belong to a not for profit organization that would like to have a speaker on a Ste. Genevieve historical topic? The Foundation office maintains a list of presentation topics and they are offered free within 30 miles of Ste. Genevieve.

For a full list of topics, visit www.historicstegen.org or call the Foundation at 573-883-9622.

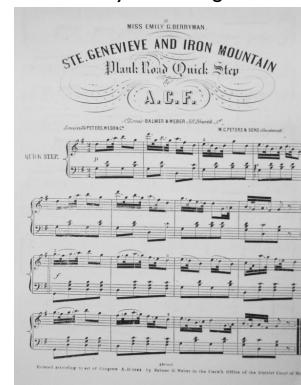


Songs about Ste. Genevieve

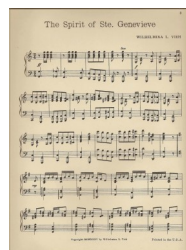
By Bob Mueller

Ste. Genevieve has been blessed with musicians and song writers throughout its history. Some like La Guignolée have been a part of our cultural history for almost 275 years. Thomas Ashe, a European visitor to our area in 1806 remarked about hearing the church bells as he neared the town. Later that day, he “lounged through the village and chatted en passant with the inhabitants, who were all in groups outside their doors. The women at work, the children at play, and the men performing music, singing songs, or telling stories. In Jacques Guibord’s 1799-1800 business journal, he noted selling violin strings to a number of people in the village.

The **oldest song with sheet music** is called “**The Ste. Genevieve and Iron Mountain Plank Road Quick Step**” written by Emily G. Berryman and published by Balmer and Weber located at 58 Fourth Street in St. Louis. According to “Music Publishing in St. Louis” Balmer and Weber occupied this location between 1851 and 1857. That would seem to date the song to sometime in that period. Like “Voyage au Ste. Genevieve”, it has no lyrics.



The instrumental “Voyage au Ste. Genevieve” (Trip to Ste. Genevieve) just might be the oldest song about Ste. Genevieve of them all. It was most recently performed by Dennis Stroughmatt on his 2008 album, “Cadet Rouselle”. According to Dennis, this was a traditional song in the Old Mines area. He learned to play it from Roy Boyer. Roy, who was born about 1915, learned it from older men in the community. It is difficult to date the song, but Dennis thinks it may have originated at least by the Civil War. Roy told Dennis that the song was like the sound of pack mules taking lead from the mines to Ste. Genevieve.



A third song titled “**The Spirit of Ste. Genevieve**” was written by a local musician and music teacher, Minnie Vieh, for Ste. Genevieve’s 1935 Bi-centennial celebration. She gave music lessons here in Ste. Genevieve for many years, and also held some of the first kindergarten classes in the old public school at the corner of 2nd and Market. This song too was an instrumental.



In 1962, Ste. Genevieve native Bill Simon, wrote the song, “**Dear Olde Ste. Genevieve**”. It was published in 1962 by Carl Fischer, Inc of New York, NY. Forty years later, on August 22, 2012, “Dear Olde Ste. Genevieve” was proclaimed as the official town song for Ste. Genevieve by the Board of Aldermen.

Another Ste. Genevieve song was written by Soozie Tyrell of Bruce Springsteen’s E Street band. The song “Ste. Genevieve” was featured on her “White Lines” album released in 2003. Her lyrics were again a poignant reminder of the Flood of ’93.

“Whenever will the rain end
Will I ever plow my fields again
That old river, my old friend
Rose up against me and stole my land

(rest of this song continued on the next page)



The national attention on Ste. Genevieve effort’s during the Flood of ’93 provided songwriters with the inspiration to chronicle those difficult times for the town. In 1995, St. Louisan Jay Farrar, vocalist and lead guitar for the group “Son Volt” referred to Ste. Genevieve in his song “**Tear Stained Eye**” which was released on the band’s album “Trace”.

“Tear Stained Eye” lyrics

“Walking down Main Street
Getting to know the concrete
Looking for a purpose
From a neon sign
I would meet you anywhere
The western sun meets the air
We’ll hit the road
Never looking behind
Can you deny
There’s nothing greater
Nothing more
Than the traveling hands of time?
Ste. Genevieve can hold back the water
Saints don’t bother
With the tear-stained eye”

Foundation Creates African American Genealogy Aid

The Foundation for Restoration of Ste. Genevieve recently completed a project to transcribe the Church of Ste. Genevieve baptism, marriage, and burial records of African Americans between 1759 and 1865. Over 2640 African Americans related church records were transcribed, most of which were in hand-written French. The data recorded on spreadsheets and sorted in various ways to facilitate genealogical as well as academic research. Copies of the information were provided to the State Historical Society of MO, Missouri Historical Society, St. Louis City and County main libraries, and the Farmington Public Library. Locally, the data can be researched at the Ste. Genevieve County Library and the Foundation’s Mecker Research Library. The project was funded in part with a \$2500 grant from the Missouri Humanities Council as part of their African American Heritage program. Special thanks to Nicole Boyer, Nancy Derickson, and Julia Belford for their work in transcribing the information onto the spreadsheets. Julia’s experience with the French records proved invaluable during the proof-reading the materials generated. The project was completed under the direction of Sara Menard and Bob Mueller.

The Newsletter of the Foundation for Restoration of Ste. Genevieve

Concerning the Guibourd House

The GV House, as well as the Kiel Schwent office have been preventively treated for termites. Foundation member Louise Wade of Virginia has contacted the office about donating books she has that originally belonged to Jules and Anne Marie Valle for display in the House. Mentioned elsewhere in this newsletter, we will be replacing the handicap porch lift through a grant from the CFO. We have also made application, and awaiting word, for a grant from the National Historic Trust for replacement of the roof and gutters. The House Committee made the decision to make tours available during the winter by appointment only, as no other houses in town were open during the week. The Welcome Center was appreciative of our offer, in order to accommodate Monday through Thursday tourists. Over the winter, mostly through the efforts of Sara Menard, the room upstairs in the kitchen annex was replastered and repainted.

Ste. Genevieve Museum Learning Center, Senator Blunt, and Rolfe's Are Recipients of Foundation's 2020 Annual Awards.

The 2020 Educational Research Award in the amount of \$1,000 was presented to the new Ste. Genevieve Museum Learning Center for their commitment to historic education. President Weiler made the presentation to members of the Advisory Board for the Center in December. He also made a Zoom presentation to Senator Blunt to award the 2020 Distinguished Service Award in appreciation for his efforts in bringing the National Park designation to Ste. Genevieve. And finally, for their preservation work, and maintenance of the Old Academy, Frank and Annette Rolfe were awarded the Foundation's Historic Preservation Award for the year. Normally these are presented at the annual Christmas Gala, which was unfortunately cancelled due to covid situation. The Foundation also congratulates Board member Becky Millinger and the Presbyterian Church as they were honored by the Missouri Alliance for Historic Preservation for their work in restoring the O'Neill House.

History Conference Speakers and Topics

This year's History Conference lineup features:

Dr Will Thompson speaking on the "Fictional Portraits of the French Creoles of the Illinois Country". Sharon Person has chosen the unusual title, "Un mariage inconstant" about Guillaume Pottier's will, and the Louisiana Superior Council. Dr. Adam Criblez, a first-time presenter, will reveal the "History of Early Cape Girardeau". Dr. David McDonald returns this year and will discuss Jean-Baptiste Ducoigne and his role with the Kaskaskia Tribe. And Conference Chair, Bob Mueller, will speak on the "Building Variations in Colonial Ste. Genevieve". Shaping up to be another great History Conference on Sep. 18, 2021.

SONGS OF STE. GENEVIEVE (continued)

"My daddy knew her and his father too, he said
"That river will be good to you"
Now I'm standing in a handout line for mercy
Cursing my river for taking back what she gave to me

Never will there be a price on
What's been lost aside from field and farm
Its dirty lives turned upside down
Faith in God ain't gonna save this town
Even darker days with no sleep
Laughing through the tears of someone's TV floating down the street
The Governor came with the network news
Stating how that river brought us down, down to our knees

Oh Sainte Genevieve
My Sainte Genevieve
Here I was born and raised
You are the heart and soul of me
Oh Sainte Genevieve
My Sainte Genevieve
That old gypsy river wants to take her share
I swear I'll never leave"

The most recent song about Ste. Genevieve was written by Jacqui Treco. She included the song "Genevieve" on her 2015 album also titled "Genevieve". Her lyrics tell the story of how those of us who had moved away for a time felt as we came down I-55 to exit 154 and home.

"Mile-marker 154
Racing down toward the O
And I don't even know what for
'Cause summer's just as far away
As he is from my door tonight

"But as I reach the stop
And make the left
I'm taken back
To that time

When I fell for Genevieve's
Towering steeple, open fields
Couldn't believe that it was real
I fell for Genevieve's
Open hearts that filled her streets
It's a love I can't repeat"



If you know of other songs about Ste. Genevieve, please email the Foundation at ffrsg@att.net.

Membership Renewal Restructured

The Board recently voted to simplify the process of membership renewal by changing all members terms from January through December instead of date to date. This should make it easier for all to remember to renew their yearly memberships by Dec 31 for the following year. With the covid situation, and discussion about this decision, the secretary is behind on getting notices out. If you have not yet paid for your 2021 membership re-newal, please fill out the form, include your membership level of support check, and mail or drop it in the slot at the office. And as always, thanks for your support!



**The Foundation for
Restoration of
Ste. Genevieve, Inc.
P.O. Box 88
Ste. Genevieve, MO 63670**

FOUNDATION RESEARCH AWARD

The Foundation is now accepting applications for its 2021 Educational Research Award.

This \$500 award is given annually to encourage study and research regarding the Ste. Genevieve District. Ste. Genevieve was an important location in Upper Louisiana during French and Spanish Rule before the Louisiana Purchase and in the formative years of the State of Missouri. However, the award is not limited to research during these time periods but could be awarded for any time period or subject matter related to the area. The award may be given for a thesis, graduate level special project, dissertation, or book.

To apply, see: <https://www.historicstegen.org/research-award>

Applications must be postmarked no later than September 30, 2021 to be considered eligible for the 2021 award. Applications should be sent to:

The Foundation for Restoration of Ste. Genevieve
PO Box 88
Ste. Genevieve, MO 63670

DR. SUSAN FLADER DONATES STUDY PAPERS

Dr. Susan Flader, professor emeritus of history at the University of Missouri, Columbia, and a member of the Foundation for Restoration, recently donated a large document collection developed during the 1980's UM study project on Ste. Genevieve. Included in the materials donated to the Mecker Research Library are translations of deeds, estate papers, church records, individual biographies, slave sales, and other records from the Ste. Genevieve Archives originally written in French. Also donated were theses and student papers based on the materials as well as microfilms of Ste. Genevieve related materials that reside in Seville, Spain. This collection is a great addition to the library and will facilitate future research on Ste. Genevieve's wonderful history. A microfilm reader previously donated to the Foundation by the Ste. Genevieve County Library is available at the Foundation Office to view the microfilms.

FOUNDATION AWARDED CFO GRANTS

The Foundation received a grant from the Community Foundation of the Ozarks in the amount of \$7,895 in order to replace the aging handicapped porch lift at the Guibourd House. As the only historic tour home in Ste. Genevieve offering limited handicapped access, the Board felt it was appropriate to apply for the grant funds made available. There will have to be a new concrete pad poured, and the old lift disassembled and removed to make ready for the new lift. Through a separate grant also from the CFO, the Foundation will be supplying benches and plantings to go with the new gazebo in the County parking lot on Market Street where the old County Services building was located. The Foundation is grateful for the financial assistance provided by the CFO for these two projects.

**Annual Membership Meeting
Sunday, July 18 6pm**

S G Museum Learning Center Courtyard

Save the Dates

**September History Conference
Saturday, Sept 18 9am**

S G Community Center Sports Complex