

THE CLARK MESSENGER

Newsletter of the George Rogers Clark Heritage Association



February 2021

Our next Membership Meeting is March 3, 7 p.m., the Gathering House

President's Message

I hope that you and yours continue to be warm and well.

In spite of the 2020 Fair at New Boston cancellation and the pandemic, your GRCHA is alive and well.

The GRCHA remains on solid financial ground due to the efforts of those Boards who served before and the continuation of sound financial practices.

2020/2021 Trustee Elections – You will recall that the Elections for the Board of Trustees were not held in December due to the cancellation of the December General Membership Meeting and were postponed to the January 2021 General Membership Meeting. Then the January 2021 General Membership meeting was also cancelled due to the Coronavirus.

Doris, Wendy and Phil's terms were up this year. As no other nominations for the Board of Trustees were received, *the 2021 GRCHA Board of Trustees and Board Officers will continue through the year 2021.*

Phil Campbell – President

Doris Dressel – Vice President

Sheri Forness – Secretary

Mary Jane Rumpke – Treasurer

Michelle Sampson

Wendy Edmiston

Mark Gaver

Kris Shultz

2021 GRCHA Membership Dues – As those members who paid their 2020 GRCHA dues did not receive the benefits of membership due to GRCHA events, including the Fair at New Boston, being

cancelled due to the Coronavirus - The Board agreed that those who paid their GRCHA dues in 2020 would continue as Members in Good Standing of GRCHA through 2021.

If you did not pay your dues in 2020, you are encouraged to pay them in 2021.

The GRCHA Website is being revised – We hope to have the new/ revised site up and running soon. I will keep you updated on our progress.

Hrinko Donation – Lisa & Dan Hrinko donated to the George Rogers Clark Heritage Association several lovely pieces of art, either for us to display or to auction for the benefit of the GRCHA. The auction was planned for the January 2021 Membership Meeting. As the January 2021 Membership Meeting did not occur, the auction will be held at a later date, to be determined.

The Crabill House – the Crabill House Lease is due for renewal September 2021.

We are currently meeting with the Clark County Historical Society to gauge their interest in the Crabill House. Either in assisting us, or taking over the lease. I will keep you posted on progress.

If you have questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to ask.

The Next General Membership Meeting is scheduled for 7 pm on Wednesday, March 3, 2021 at the Gathering House. I hope to see you there.

Wash your hands, take care of yourselves and each other.

Phil Campbell

Crabill Homestead History

By Brian Menker

Shared by Becky Bostick

The Crabill Homestead is of late Federal design. It is located in Clark County on the shores of the Clarence J. Brown Reservoir. Although the exact date that construction began is unknown, it first appeared on County tax records in 1826 at a value of \$411. The house was occupied by several generations of the David Crabill family until the early 20th century when it was rented to tenant farmers. It was purchased along with the land by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in 1966 when construction of the dam and reservoir was slated to begin, and sat vacant until the house and 8 acres were leased to the Clark County Historical Society.



(The Crabill House, 1971, before the reservoir)

The Historical Society did extensive restorations from 1973-1976, and again in 1997-98 to stabilize and preserve the structure.

Although the Crabill House was built during the late Federal and Early Empire periods, when elegant furniture was available in Eastern cities including Cincinnati, there has been little attempt at sumptuous decoration and furnishing. This was the home of a sturdy, but prosperous pioneer family, and it was felt that the furnishings should reflect this.

The items in the house came from the Society's collections and donations. Utilitarian items, especially kitchen implements are from the Society's collections. The furniture was donated by members of the Society, except for four pieces which were purchased through donated funds.

With changing priorities and funding challenges, along with a dwindling volunteer base, the Clark

County Historical Society ended the lease in 2010. The George Rogers Clark Heritage Association entered into a lease with the US Army Corps of Engineers in 2012. The lease boundaries now encompass the house and 20 acres, including the entrance road from the gate to the house, and the site of the now demolished park officer's house.

Brian Menker

Natural Resources Specialist (Ranger)

C.J. Brown Dam and Reservoir

Louisville District

US Army Corps of Engineers

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