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The Oldham County History Center

106 N. Second Avenue
LaGrange, KY 40031
502-222-0826
Fax: 502-222-7115
Email: ochstryctr@aol.com
Website:
oldhamcountyhistoricalsociety.org
Hours of operation:
T,W,Th, Sat: 10 a.m. until 4 p.m.,
Fri 10 am to 8 p.m. closed Sun &
Mon

Serving Life: The Kentucky State Reformatory An Exhibit: March 1-August 15



Dedication of the Kentucky State Reformatory on Oct. 9, 1939

The Kentucky State Reformatory has been an important part of Oldham County's history since its dedication on Oct. 9, 1939. The concept of the Kentucky State Reformatory was made possible through funds from the 1936 General Assembly and matching funds from the Public Works Administration, a total of \$1.5 million. The gothic architecture is a landmark in the county and contains 2 corner stones, which credits Governor Happy Chandler and his Commission and the President of the United States, Franklin D. Roosevelt for making KSR possible.

Currently we are working on oral histories from people who have been connected with the Reformatory and we are also looking for items to display. Please contact us if you can recommend or loan items for the exhibit.

It would be difficult to estimate the numbers of people employed, the numbers of people imprisoned and the service industries that have been involved with the Reformatory over the last 68 years. The concept of the Reformatory was to build a facility that was self-contained where inmates learned trades, raised their own foods, and produced goods and services that ranged from license plates to furniture to leather products, print materials, and much more.

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Antique tractor displays have been an important part of the history center's Oldham County Day celebration— the history center's new Antique Iron Club will increase the history center's participation in parades and events— engaging more people in the community with their local history!!!

The Antique Iron: New Club at the History Center

The Oldham County History Center has added a new branch to its organization called Antique Iron. Antique Iron is for anyone interested in the preservation of engines that are more than 50 years old. Antique Iron draws in the antique tractor hobbyist but also reaches out to anyone that collects or is interested in technology from our past. The Antique Iron has already attracted new members to the history center and is planning some exciting future activities that include participation in parades, education activities, tractor rides and a plow day. 2008 Parade participation by the Antique Iron includes the following: The Warsaw Parade, The Shelbyville Christmas Parade, Westport Daze, Applefest at Bedford, Brownsboro Festival, Oldham County Day, New Castle and Campbellsburg Parade and the Masonic Homes of Kentucky.

For the past 3 years the Oldham County History Center has hosted a antique Tractor Show in conjunction with the local Masonic lodges. Gene Crady who has been collecting antique tractors for 15 years organized the antique tractor show and is the chairperson for Antique Iron. Gene sees Antique Iron as a natural “fit” with the mission of the Oldham County History Center. “Antique Iron is a great way to engage people in our local history by telling the story of our agricultural past.” If you are interested in joining the Antique Iron, meetings are held the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m. at the Rob Morris Chapel Educational Bldg located on history center grounds.



Antique Tractor on History Center grounds, Oldham County Day 2007

Serving Life: The Kentucky State Reformatory

(continued from front page)

The twelve story gothic style administration building was designed to house the offices of key staff members, a hospital and medical offices, and living quarters for correctional staff. The eleventh floor houses the machinery of the elevator; the twelfth floor houses a now defunct 150,000 gallon water tank. Today there are 12 dormitories made up of individual room, a 150 bed Correctional Psychiatric Treatment Unit, and a 58 bed nursing Care Facility. In addition, there is a 2 story cellblocks with 130 segregation cells and a 40 bed daily assisted living unit. Other buildings include an Academic/Vocational School, Gymnasium, Chapel, Dining Facility, Inmate Canteen, Correctional Industries, Visitation Building, and a Mental Health Building and the new Medical Services Building housing 48 inmates.

KSR Warden Larry Chandler is working with the history center to help gather photographs and materials. In addition, Commissioner John D. Rees's office in Frankfort is providing materials and histories so that the history center can establish a timeline of important events.

Living History on Saturdays for Kids

The Oldham County History Center will present special stories and activities each month, presented by “living history” re-enactors. Each session will feature an aspect of history that includes how people lived and worked in the past. The re-enactors will tell their special stories that include audience participation and hands-on activities.

All Living History Programs take place once a month on Saturdays at 10 am. The dates and programs are listed below. Programs will meet at the Rob Morris Chapel Educational Building at the Oldham County History Center. Free admission.

Living History Schedule:

January 26, 2008 features Helen McKinney, pioneer. Helen is a re-enactor with the Painted Stone Settlers. She will talk about pioneer living and share items from her blanket chest. Children will try-on pioneer clothing and learn about the hardships of pioneer living.

February 23, 2008 features Charles Turner, Civil War soldier. Turner is a member of the 12th United States Colored Heavy Artillery regiment which was one of the African American units, mustered in at Camp Nelson, Kentucky. Turner will talk about the brave actions of African Americans who escaped slavery to fight for the Union. Children will examine civil war items and make “hard tac” that was a special bread made and eaten by the soldiers.

March 15, 2008 features Bob Fortunato, early 20th Century baseball player. Experience the early years of baseball and celebrate the opening of the baseball season. Children will compare the different types of baseballs and bats and uniforms that have evolved over a century.

Thanks to the following supporters of our 2007 Gala:

J.W. Hall & Sons
Red Pepper Deli & Catering
Riverside Farms
Rocketman Inc.
Tri-County Ford Mercury



History Center volunteer and Louisville Slugger museum educator, Bob Fortunato, will be the featured “Living History” re-enactor for the March 15, 2007 program.

(2007 Gala Supporters– continued)

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Baptist Hospital Northeast

Little Colonel Weekend Feb. 8,9 & 10, 2008

Join us for a weekend of events February 8-10 spotlighting the "Little Colonel's Legacy"

Friday, Little Colonel Weekend Kick-off, Feb. 8 at 7 p.m., Author Annie Fellows Johnston is portrayed by Sue Lynn McDaniel in this wonderful presentation. You will learn about Johnston's love of Pewee Valley and her creation of the Little Colonel characters. McDaniel is an expert on the Little Colonel and a Ky. Humanities speaker. RESERVATIONS RECOMMENDED: 222-08267 \$13 history center members/\$15 non-members

Saturday, Feb 9, all day: A great day of activities— special tour pkg of \$25 includes special Little Colonel lunch, tickets to the "Little Colonel of Lloydsborough" play produced by the Little Colonel Players Theatrical group and a special bus tour. The showtimes for "The Little Colonel of Loydsborough" are 1, 2, 3, and 4 p.m. Ticket prices for the play are \$5 adults/\$2 children. Little Colonel Appraisal fair from 10 until 1 p.m. at the St. James Episcopal Church. Bus tours and special self-guided tours also available as well as tickets sold individually to the play. Open house tours of Tangelwood and Bemersdye. Little Colonel gift boutique at the Pewee Valley's Women's Club, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Sunday, Feb. 10, all day: Chili lunch at Town Hall sponsored by the Pewee Valley Fire Dept. "The Little Colonel of Lloydsborough" Play by the Little Colonel Players at the Playhouse on Mt. Mercy Ave., showtimes: 11 am, 1:30, 3 and 4 p.m. (\$5 adults/\$2 children) Little Colonel gift boutique at the Pewee Valley Women's Club, 1 to 4 p.m.



Re-enactor, professor and Little Colonel expert, Sue Lynn McDaniel will portray author Annie Fellows Johnston for the Kick-off of the Little Colonel Weekend, Feb 8-10

D. W. Griffith Movie Night Friday, January 18, 2008

The Oldham County History Center will be celebrating D. W. Griffith Movie Night, 5-8 p.m. at the history center. There will be popcorn and birthday cake. A variety of his film work will be shown.

Each year the Oldham County History Center celebrates D.W. Griffith's birthday. Griffith, often cited as the "Father of Modern Film-making" created such film making techniques as the fade out, flashback, diffused lighting, moving cameras, and high-angle photography. His many films include "Birth of a Nation", "America", "Intolerance", "Broken Blossom", "Orphans of the Storm", "Abraham Lincoln", "Way Down East", "Dream Street", "Hearts of the World", "Scarlet Days", "Sorrows of Satan", "Desraeli", and "Lady of the Pavements", just to mention a few.

In Pursuit of Equality: Educational Outreach

“Celebrating the Lincoln Bicentennial”

The Oldham County Historical Society and the 12th United States Colored Heavy Artillery present an educational outreach program that highlights the accomplishments and efforts of Kentuckians to help abolish slavery as well as tell the story of the African American’s during the Civil War.

Members of the 12th Artillery will describe the role of the African American soldier in the Civil War and the hardships faced in camps and on the battlefield. The 12th United States Colored Heavy Artillery (USCHA) is the only African-American Civil War artillery unit in the Midwest. The 12th USCHA represents the soldiers that organized at Camp Nelson, Kentucky on July 15, 1864.

This living history group honors and remembers the more than 20,000 African Americans that served in the military during the Civil War. Slaves from Oldham County and surrounding areas escaped to serve for the Union and were actively recruited to serve by such local leaders as Elijah Marrs.

Concepts covered in this outreach program include cultural diversity, discrimination, stereotypes, slavery, freedom, civil rights, citizenship, beliefs, customs and traditions of African American culture. A 20 minute presentation is followed by question and answer sessions including hands-on activities. For program schedule and cost contact: The Oldham County History Center, 502-222-0826, email: ochstryctr@aol.com.



The 12th United States Colored Heavy Artillery represents the soldiers who fought during the Civil War. The group will provide outreach programs for education and the general public in honor of the Lincoln Bicentennial. For more information, costs and scheduling contact the Oldham County History Center:

The Oldham County Historical Society appreciates the following sponsors for our educational programs and exhibits:

Louise Head Duncan Trust
Duane and Anne Murner
Williamson, Simpson and Theiss

Don't forget the Appraisal Fair held in conjunction with Little Colonel Weekend. The Appraisal Fair will be held from 10 a.m. until 1 p.m. at the St. James Episcopal Church in Pewee Valley. \$5 per item/up to 3 items per per-

2007 Living Treasures Honored

The Oldham Era and the Oldham County History Center will honor the 2007 Living Treasures at a recognition reception on Saturday, January 19. The Living Treasures program honors those 70 years or older, living in the local community for their contributions. The Living Treasures program is modeled after a similar program in Santa Fe that honors its' elders who have generously served the community with their kind hearts and good deeds. Each month a local elder was selected and featured in a full page section of the Oldham Era. The Living Treasures are selected by recommendations from members in the Oldham County community.

Well-known writer and columnist Bryon Crawford will recognize the recipients along with Oldham County History Center Chair from the Board of Directors, Bob Martin.

2007 Living Treasure Recipients

David Carter
Jean Kay Radcliffe
Bob Hehl
Ann Dick
Dorothy Dowe
Bob Johnston
Dot Carraco
Vincent Fanelli
Ida Beaumont
Paul Bowling
Charlie Prather

The recognition reception will be held on Saturday, January 19 at 2 p.m. at the Rob Morris Chapel Educational Bldg, 207 W. Jefferson on History Center grounds. The public is invited to attend.



Writer and columnist Bryon Crawford will host the reception for the 2007 Living Treasures recipients on Saturday, January 19 at 2 p.m. at the Oldham County History Center.

Thanks to the following supporters of our 2007 Gala:

J.W. Hall & Sons
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Rocketman Inc.
Tri-County Ford Mercury
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Wyatt, Tarrant & Combs
The Fillies
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Fastline Publications
East & Westbrook Construction Co & Pearce
Brothers Ready Mix Concrete & Supply
Champion Chevrolet Pontiac Buick
Brown-Forman Corporation
Mr. and Mrs. Edward Bonnie
Baptist Hospital Northeast

The Oldham County Historical Society preserves, collects and conveys the history of Oldham County by telling the story of its people and the events that shape its development using the objects and artifacts that illustrate and symbolize that history. Through its exhibits, programs and activities, it will engage people in a dynamic process of thought, participation and action. It will strive to affirm the importance of individual and collective community memory to develop a more enlightened society. The Oldham County Historical Society was founded in 1959 and incorporated as a private, 501(c)3 educational organization in April, 1975.

The Society is governed by a Board of Directors and owns and operates the Oldham County History Center, J.C. Barnett Library and Archives and the 1880 Presbyterian Church all of which are located beside the town square of LaGrange.

Mission Statement: The Oldham County Historical Society will create, maintain, and manage for the benefit of all the people of Oldham County: A physical presence, an organizational structure, a strong financial base and endowment, staff and volunteers, collections, exhibits, educational programs, activities and special events and a publications program.

The creation of the Oldham County History Center is made possible through the contributions of the Peyton Samuel Head Family Trust, The Oldham County Fiscal Court, the Board of Directors and support from sponsors and individuals.

Join today!

Annual Membership Dues:	
Seniors/Students/Individuals	\$25
Family	\$50
Donor	\$100
Friend	\$250
Patron	\$500
Director's Circle	\$1,000

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone: Home _____

Wk phone _____

Email: _____

Family please list children's names: _____

Oldham County Historical Society
 106 North Second Avenue

Non-Profit Organization
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