

## OCHS Board of Directors

Robert Martin, President  
Raymond Simpson, Vice President  
Kevin Eldridge, Treasurer  
Oren Clore, Secretary  
Alex Babey  
Harry L. Bell  
Lee Clore  
Denia Crosby  
David Gleason  
Tracy Johnson  
Marian Klein Koehler  
Sally Landes  
Duane Murner  
Shirley Orr  
Tracey Leet  
Staff: : Nancy Stearns Theiss,  
Executive Director  
Pam Fields, Ad.m. Assistant,  
Dot Carraco, Genealogy Coord.  
Jan Jasper, Educator  
Martina Gonzalez, Receptionist

## The Oldham County History Center

106 N. Second Avenue  
LaGrange, KY 40031  
502-222-0826  
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

## **Women's Work Quilt Exhibit, Featuring First Achievers with guest Tori McClure, support grant from the Ky. Oral History Commission**

The Oldham County History Center has received a \$1,200 grant for collecting oral histories of women of Oldham County who were "the first" to break the gender barrier in various jobs and positions. The grant is a companion to the Women's Work quilt exhibit by artist Rebekka Seigel. Seigel's quilts emphasize famous women of the 20th century and made a brief visit to the Oldham County History Center in 2007.

The quilts highlight the careers of women such as Ella Fitzgerald, Eleanor Roosevelt, Lucille Ball, Rachel Carson and Pearl Buck. Each quilt was designed to emphasize the clothing and style of the women during particular highlights of their careers—thus the quilts are in "paper doll fashion" as the outfits can be placed on a figure of the person that is highlighted. Jan Jasper, educator at the

history center, wrote a grant to the Ky. Oral History Commission to collect local oral histories of local women achievers. Over 12 oral histories will be taken and featured as a part of the exhibit.

In addition, the Oldham County History Center will host Tori Murden McClure as the featured speaker for a reception to honor Oldham County's women achievers. McClure was the first person to row solo across the Atlantic Ocean.

The reception and Murden's talk will be on Saturday, March 21 at Noon at the Oldham County History Center. Tickets are FREE but must be obtained in advanced. Limit of 4 tickets for history center members, 2 tickets for non-members. Special tickets can be procured for youth groups. Call the Oldham County History Center for information at 502-222-0826.

# 2008 Living Treasure Reception Sunday, January 25, 2009

The Oldham Era and the Oldham County History Center will honor the 2008 Living Treasures at a recognition reception. 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.

Local native and author, Dr. E. Bruce Heilman will recognize the recipients along with Oldham County History Center Chair from the Board of Directors, Bob Martin.

## 2008 Living Treasure Recipients

Martha Manby  
Nancy Doty  
Bill Tucker  
George Parrish, Jr.  
Emma Laura Johnson  
Robert McMakin  
David Monroe  
Majorie Applegate  
Al Kingenfus  
Ethel Cox  
William Kirby

The recognition reception will be held on Sunday, January 25, 2009 at 1 p.m. at the Rob Morris Chapel Educational Bldg, 207 W. Jefferson on History Center grounds. The public is invited to attend.



## **Author and Native E. Bruce Heilman Featured Speaker For the January Dinner Meeting of the Oldham County Historical Society.**

Local native, Dr. E. Bruce Heilman will be a guest speaker for the dinner meeting of the Oldham County Historical Society. Dr. Heilman, will recount his life experiences that are featured in his new biography, *An Interruption that Lasted a Lifetime: My First Eighty Years*. Born and raised in Oldham County, Heilman served in the Marine Corps in WWII. He pursued a career in higher education and was president of two colleges including the University of Richmond from 1971 to 1986 where he is currently Chancellor. To mark his 82<sup>nd</sup> birthday, Heilman rode his Harley-Davidson motorcycle across the United States. He and his wife, Betty, have been married for 60 years.

Heilman will be signing copies of his book at the meeting. The meeting which will include dinner, will take place on Tuesday evening, January 27, 2009 at 6 p.m. at Arbor Ridge Vine & Grill on 6402 Westwind Way, Crestwood. Cost is \$15 for members, \$18 non-members. Reservations only: Call 502-222-0826.

## Celebrating 50 Years 1959-2009 Oldham County Historical Society

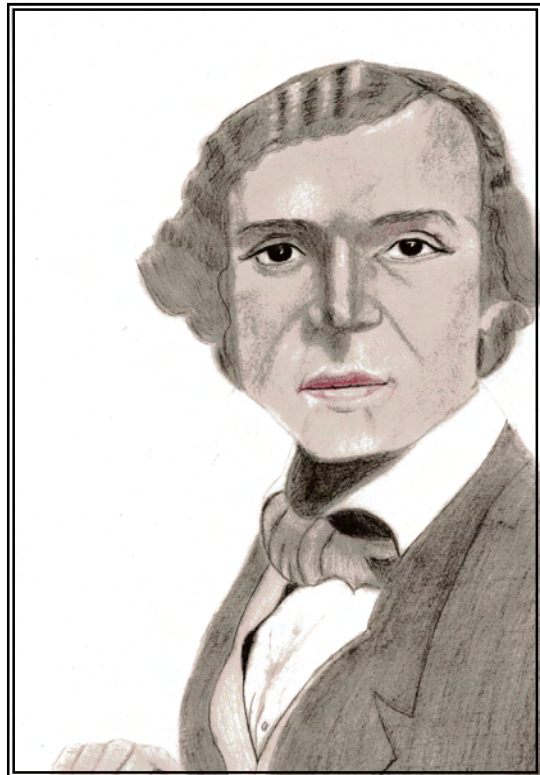
The Oldham County Historical Society kicks off 2009 with the celebration of its golden anniversary. The first organization meeting of the Oldham County Historical Society was held on Tuesday evening, October 6, 1959 at the Duncan Memorial Chapel in Floydsburg, with 50 persons in attendance and Mr. R. F. Johnson serving as temporary chairman. Over the years the Society has continued and grown, raising the awareness of community history by preserving, collecting and conveying the stories of the people and events that have shaped its development. Today the Society has expanded its mission and manages the Oldham County History Center which includes an archives, collections and museum.

The Oldham County Historical Society is celebrating its Golden Anniversary through special programs and exhibits throughout the year. The new exhibits include a **D. W. Griffith Mini-Theatre** supported by the Peyton Samuel Head Trust, **Trisha's Attic** supported by the Trish Garlock Memorial Fund and a new, hands-on technology area that includes artifacts from the past. The Society will also host the **Between Fences**, a Smithsonian Traveling Exhibit from April 25 through June 6. The public is invited to join in for a "Paint a Picket" fence contest. A section of picket fence will be available to paint for participants, who can chose a historic theme or event that celebrates the Oldham County Historical Society's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

Other special events for the year include a world premiere play funded by the Ky. Arts Council to debut at Actor's Theatre, May 29, 30 and 31. The play, **Voice of a Fugitive**, was written by Carridder Jones, expressively for the Oldham County Historical Society and details the life and times of local native, slave, fugitive and newspaper editor, Henry Bibb. The Society also received a grant through the Lincoln Bicentennial Celebration from the Ky. Heritage Council. The grant expands the current archaeological programs for two summer Archaeological Institutes for High School students at the Gatewood archaeological site during the Sum-

mer of 2009 with increased public archaeological programs on site in the Spring and Fall. This site was the last place where Henry Bibb was a slave before his flight for freedom to Canada. From April 15 to August 15 there will be a special exhibit, **The Henry Bibb Project** that focuses on the archaeological program and the slave culture of Oldham County.

The Society will wrap up its' fifty year celebration in the Fall 2009 with a special exhibit, **Primary Docs: The Museum Collection**. It will feature some of the rare and unique documents from the archives that include letters, court records, deeds, diaries, architectural drawings and other personal correspondences.



*Mark your calendars for the world premiere play of Voice of the Fugitive by Carridder Jones written for the Oldham County History Center to premiere at Actor's Theatre, May 29, 30 & 31, funded by the Ky. Arts Council as a part of the Lincoln Bicentennial Celebration*

## **Oldham County History Center receives \$14,720 Grant for Archaeological Work from the Ky. Heritage Council in Honor of the Lincoln Bicentennial Celebration**

The Oldham County History Center is very pleased to announce this grant award which will help continue fund the important archaeological programs at the Gatewood site in Trimble County. This site was the last place where Henry Bibb was a slave before his final escape to freedom where he became the first black editor of a Canadian newspaper.

In 2002 the history center began this archaeological program with money with a start-up grant from the Ky. Heritage Council. The hope is to place the site on a National Park Service Trail that traces Bibb's life journey from Kentucky through New Orleans, Pennsylvania, New York, Michigan and Canada. Bibb was one of the major leaders of the Separatists Movements prior to the Civil War. He raised money to establish a Refugee's Colony in Canada for slaves.

Since 2002 the Oldham County History Center has hosted numerous, public archaeological programs on site with the permission and cooperation of the site owner, Colonel Glenn Fisher. The grant will expand more public digs during 2009, sponsor 2 summer institutes for high school students and allow for professional archaeological cataloguing of artifacts that have been collected on site.

## **Trisha's Attic Exhibit to Open Valentine's Day, Saturday Feb. 14, 2009**

Trisha's Attic will open on Feb 14, featuring textiles, costumes and other vintage clothing from the history center collection. The exhibit was created from memorial gifts dedicated in honor of Trish Garlock, former owner of The Treasured Child on Main Street in LaGrange.

Trish was well known for her love of history and in particular vintage clothing. The exhibit displays the some of the museum's special collections and includes a dress up area and hands on activities for children. A ongoing film discusses fashion trends and special patents of the 20th Century.



Trish Garlock was often accompanied by her dog Pamuk

**D.W. Griffith Mini-Theatre  
Opens Jan. 22, 2009  
With Grant from the Peyton  
Samuel Head Trust**

The Oldham County History Center received a grant from the Peyton Samuel Head Family Trust to develop a mini-theatre that honors Oldham County native, D.W. Griffith. Often called the father of modern film, Griffith was the first movie director to develop feature length films. His first film, Birth of a Nation, lasted 131 minutes and delighted movie goers, who, up until that time, had only experienced the short films, usually lasting only 10 to 15 minutes. Birth of a Nation was a very controversial film because of Griffith's portrayal of the Ku Klux Klan in a heroic role. It sparked riots in the streets and litigation in the courts. As a work of art, it was flawless; applying cinematic conventions to audiences who were moved as never before.

After Birth of a Nation, Griffith went on to produce other tantamount films with storylines that explored controversial topics such as drug addiction, child abuse and multiracial relationships. He brought filmmaking from a novelty status to its enduring place as a barometer of American culture.

The D. Griffith Mini-Theatre will open on D. W. Griffith's birthday which was January 22, 1875. The history center houses a library of Griffith films and plans to show them, ongoing and by request, at the Oldham County History Center. There will be birthday cake and popcorn to celebrate the opening.



Join us for the opening of the D.  
W. Griffith Mini-Theatre and  
Celebration of D.W. Griffith's  
Birthday

January 22, 2009

We will be serving cake and  
popcorn on Thursday, Friday  
and Saturday, January 22-24

Oldham County Historical Society  
106 North Second Avenue  
LaGrange, Kentucky 40031

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: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Non-Profit Organization  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
LaGrange, KY  
Permit No. 50