

Old McCormack Church

Foundation For Historic McCormack Meetinghouse, Inc. P.O. Box 2 Stanford, Kentucky 40484

VOL. 15

Summer/Fall 2007

Meetinghouse of Continuous Worship Since 1785

NEWSLETTER

Byron Crawford: Annual Session Speaker

You are now reading the 15th edition of a newsletter that has been the means by which the foundation is able to appraise the membership of its activities during the year. This year we are most fortunate in having Mr. Byron Crawford as speaker for the annual luncheon. An established journalist, Byron has written three columns a week for the Louisville Courier-Journal. His stories about Kentucky's cultural treasures and mysteries have appeared in the New York Times, USA Today and the London Sunday Telegraph, as well as on National Public Radio and on several television networks. A recognized television personality, he is popular with viewers of KET. His syndicated series "Side Roads" became a popular feature of stations in Kentucky, Tennessee and Ohio. This talented author of two successful books, "Crawford's Journal" and "Kentucky Stories" has received numerous awards most notable being: The Governor's Media Award in Arts in 1999 and Media Award of the Historical Confederation of Kentucky in 2005.

Charles Kuralt, former CBS News Correspondent has said,

"Byron Crawford is the best storyteller in Kentucky—if you count only the ones who tell the truth." His talk on September 1st is titled, "The Future of Our Past." You don't want to miss meeting and hearing him speak; Lincoln County's favorite son, Byron Crawford.

Do make plans now to attend as we expect a larger than usual crowd.



Byron Crawford
Photo by: KET

Your are requested to utilize the enclosed reservation slip and mail back in the envelope provided. Also, please mark and return the ballot if you are currently a member of the foundation. The luncheon will be held at the Kentucky Depot Restaurant in Stanford, KY starting at 11:30 a.m., Saturday, September 1, 2007. We look forward to having you join us for what is always a delightful occasion. And, plan on attending Homecoming 2007 at McCormack's Church the following day, September 2nd.

President's Report

By Charles D. Carter

December 5th of this year will mark the 20th anniversary of the Foundation for Historic McCormack Meetinghouse, Inc. With the help and encouragement of many people who have contributed their time, interest, and money, our board of directors has endeavored to spend and invest in a prudent manner. Today I want to report to all that the foundation is solvent and making plans for the future.

An inspection and evaluation tour of the structures and grounds of McCormack Church on July 27, 2006 by Harold Davis and myself revealed twenty four areas of interest possibly requiring attention. (A copy of this survey is available upon request to the editor). An outgrowth of this survey was the appointment of a committee to formulate a "Master Plan for Site Development and Improvement" chaired by Mr. Tom Cooper. At the July 7th meeting of the board a preliminary report was presented that included the following items for more in-depth consideration:



McCormack Foundation Board of Directors

L. to R Seated: T.J. Hill, IV, Carol Hill, Myrtle McCormack, Tony Honaker. Standing: Chas Hinds, Lynn Shea, Bryan Cooper, Harold Davis, Peggy McCormack, Leslie Thomas and Joe Murphy. Not pictured: Tom Crawford and Elsie Jane Davis. Picture taken by Editor, Chas Carter

1. Perpetual care of cemetery church and grounds.
2. Fund raising, publicity, and increasing membership.
3. Fence encompassing the church property.

(continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

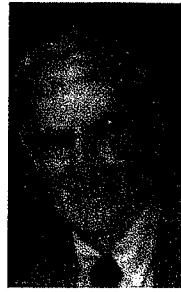
4. Parking areas.
5. Restoration/Preservation of gravestones.
6. Landscaping.
7. Support of Church Congregation.
8. Preservation of records with archival material, and church history.

It is anticipated that in the months to come a more detailed report along with cost estimates to accomplish these plans will be forthcoming.

At present, there is a need to paint the trim of both the annex and the church. The highway marker was discovered to be loose in its anchorage and will require a measure of repair and restoration. Once again a few stumps must be removed that will be accomplished this fall. Mr. Mike Yocum regularly mows the cemetery grounds and has for the past 14 years. He requested and was granted, for the first time, a modest raise this year for his services. He also tends the Memorial Garden overseen by Mr. Harold Davis.

Each January the board outlines a budget for the coming year. This year \$11,355.00 was allocated for projected expenses. As you may ascertain we are limited by our income by what can be accomplished over and above routine expenditures. In July of 2006 the foundations total value, which includes both the restricted and unrestricted funds, was \$80,289.21. In July of this year that figure had grown to \$89,324.51 primarily due to dividends from a good market, interest on certificates of deposits and from a few substantial contributions from friends of the foundation. We are very much interested in continuing to build the restricted fund for as it grows and is compounded will we be able to accumulate the finances needed to achieve our stated goals for site development and improvement. While building a desirable restricted fund it is necessary to provide for routine expenses dictated by unrestricted fund requirements. Whatever success we may have achieved these past 20 years and what will be the measure of our success in the future will depend upon the continued help of our friends. For your loyal support both now and in the past, the board of directors joins me in expressing our profound appreciation.

Do take time to study the report of our treasurer, T.J. Hill, IV, on the last page of this newsletter. I'm certain he would welcome any question you might have. We still have quite a few Christmas cards for sale and will have them available at the luncheon.



Bryan Cooper

Finally, we would call your attention to an honor recently bestowed on Bryan Cooper, long standing board member, at the awards banquet of the chamber of commerce. Bryan was recognized as "Farmer of the Year" by that august body. Congratulations to Bryan.

Congregation News

by Peggy McCormack

A big hello from the Church here at McCormack's! It's hard to believe that a year has gone by and we are making plans for another homecoming. We have had a busy year.

We have been blessed with Seth Adamson and his wife Betty, who has been sent to lead our Church. Attendance has been low for the summer, but we know that God is with us and we will be blessed in His time. Brother Seth drives 80 miles to be with us on Sundays and we are thankful for his dedication. On Wednesday evenings we have Bible study led by one of the congregation. What a wonderful way to explore God's word.

We are doing some remodeling in the education building due to a water pipe coming undone in the upstairs restroom. We had to tear out some walls and replace them, as well as cabinets and some other items. Painting is in progress in the building as well. God has blessed us with willing hearts and hands in the congregation and we are thankful for each and every one of them. We are also thankful for the praise and worship team, which provides an excellent blend of contemporary and traditional music for our group. We look forward to seeing each and every one of you as we meet again this year. May God bless and keep each and every one of you.

Gravestone Preservation

The Board Members of the McCormack Foundation are always delighted when individuals show an interest in preserving the gravestone's located in the McCormack Church Cemetery. However, it has come to our notice that if the wrong procedure is used then more damage than good can take place. Therefore, we want to announce that all the Board Members have a copy of "The Care of Old Cemeteries and Gravestone's" by Lance R. Mayer published by the Association for Gravestone Studies, and the "Care and Feeding of Gravestone's" also published by the Association for Gravestone Studies. The Association for Gravestone Studies is located at 278 Main Street, Suite 207, Greenfield, MA 01301, phone (413) 772-0836. If you do an internet search for the association for gravestone studies you can find a website for them and other helpful websites. Thanks to everyone who has taken an interest in preserving the gravestone's in the McCormack Church Cemetery.

Virginia Carol Hill
Foundation Legal Counsel

Long Lost Gravestone Returns

Often, as I viewed the gravestones in the McCormack Cemetery, I've thought if only these stones could speak what stories would they reveal. Well, at least one, that of M. Speed Peyton, has brought us a most unusual story. Surveys made over the years list burials of five Peyton individuals. Four had gravestones and one, only a base stone, but missing its headstone. By chance that headstone was recently returned to its rightful place among the other Peyton graves. It now rests peacefully against its base stone waiting to be remounted near its footstone bearing the initials MSP.

The person who found and returned the stone has chosen to remain anonymous. We can only speculate as to why, when and by whom the stone was removed. But, before I go further, let me quote exactly as the story was told to me:

"The finder purchased a house in another town in Kentucky, and was told at the time there was a tombstone buried beneath a bird feeder. It had been brought home one evening by some neighborhood kids about 30 or 40 years ago. Either the parents didn't know, or the kids wouldn't tell where it came from, so it stayed in the back yard and was covered up with overgrowth. Being busy with the move into the house and all that entails, the tombstone was forgotten about. Then, one day lately, the household dog unearthed the marker, so it was dug up, turned over, and identified as being the marker of M. Speed Peyton. The finder took the time and trouble to get on the internet, and determined there was a Matthias Speed Peyton buried at McCormack Church Cemetery. The finder then posted a note on a Lincoln County genealogy website inquiring of anyone who might know if this tombstone might be his. The marker provides a date of birth 11/17/1813, date of death 2/8/1884. This happens to be a website I visit often and I saw the note. I answered the posting; the information I had was that "Speed" was born about 1813 and died after 1880. This seemed close enough after the finder and I compared some further notes, so the finder undertook, with the help of a couple of friends, to return the tombstone to its rightful place over the Memorial Day weekend (a very fitting time!)"

There are many other stones unaccounted for and perhaps in time will return to the cemetery. Still, there are related facts of great interest pertaining to the Peyton family. Buried in McCormack's cemetery are:

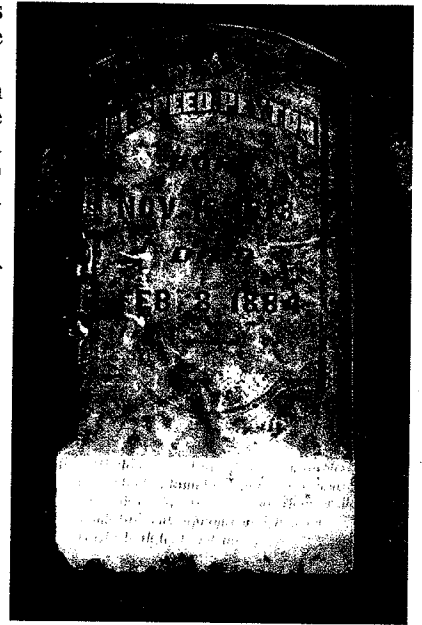
Matthias Speed Peyton (1813-1884)
Zuritha Alcorn Peyton (1824-1871)
Maria Alice Peyton (daughter) (1845-1862)
Simeon Peyton (1793-1850)
E.D. Peyton (1819-1855)

Valentine Peyton (1749-1831), one of the earliest pioneers to settle in Lincoln County, originally came from Stafford County, Virginia. A Lieutenant in the Revolutionary War, he was granted land in Fayette County which he sold and purchased land in Lincoln County near Hustonville. Peyton's Well near Frog Branch is named for him and is a well known Lincoln County landmark. Quite active in county affairs, he served as Justice from 1800-1880. Valentine was married to Mary Elizabeth Edwards and two sons of that union were Randolph and Simeon.

Randolph married Mary Polly Speed and were the parents of Matthias Speed Peyton. Simeon married Permelia Alcorn and were the parents of Zuritha Alcorn Peyton. Thus, Matthias and Zuritha were first cousins, their fathers being brothers, and the sons of Valentine Peyton.

Simeon Peyton was one of the original subscribers to the fund that made possible the construction of the present brick church in 1820.

Of further interest is Zuritha's relation to the oldest legible gravestones located in the east side of the cemetery, those of Noiel Johnson (1729-1802) and his wife, Tabitha (1740-1818). Zuritha's mother was Permilia Alcorn, daughter of James and Nancy (Johnson) Alcorn, and Nancy's parents were Noiel and Tabitha Johnson.



M. Speed Peyton

Editors Comment:

1. We are indebted to Mr. James P. Wagner of Midlothian, Texas for the factual information disclosed in the writing of this piece. Mr.

Wagner is a direct descendent of Matthias Speed Peyton and also of his spouse, Zuritha Alcorn Peyton.

2. The epitaph on the lower part of the M. Speed Peyton stone reads as follows:

Beneath this sod is buried one of the noblest works of God. A kind husband and affectionate father. Faithful Christian and one whose walk through life was upright and honorable towards both God and man.

A testimonial for which most any man would be grateful.

I'm Fine

There's nothing whatever the matter with me
I'm just as healthy as I can be;
I have arthritis in both knees
And when I talk, I speak with a wheeze.
My pulse is weak and my blood is thin
But I'm awfully well for the shape I'm in.

I think my liver is out of whack
And I have a terrible pain in my back.
My hearing is poor and eyes are dim
Most everything seems to be out of trim.
But all things considered, I'm feeling Fine.

Arch supports for both my feet
Or I wouldn't be able to walk down the street.
My fingers are ugly, stiff in the joints.
My finger nails are impossible to keep in points.
Complexion is bad, due to dry skin
But I'm awfully well for the shape I'm in.

My dentures out, I'm restless at night
And in the morn I'm a frightful sight.
Memory's failing, head's in a spin.
I'm practically living on aspirin;
But I'm awfully well for the shape I'm in.

Now the moral is, as this tale we unfold,
That for you and me who are growing old,
It's better to say, "I'm fine," with a grin,
Than to tell everyone of the shape we're in.

ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT

July 7, 2007

Assets of Foundation for Historic McCormack Meeting House, Inc.

ASSETS	MATURES	INT. - RATE	TOTAL VALUE
HL US GOV'T FUND		int. - 0.315	\$25,000.00
HL BOUGHT CD	9/4/2007	int. - 3.3	\$10,000.00
HL BOUGHT CD	Matured	int. - 5.0	\$0.00
STOCKS	SHARES	PRICE	
AT&T	101	\$40.66	\$4,106.66
Bank of America	114	\$49.15	\$5,603.10
Progress Energy, Inc	87	\$45.10	\$3,923.70
Halliburton	100	\$34.86	\$3,486.00
MDU	487	\$29.04	\$14,142.48
BANK CDS	MATURES	INT. - RATE	
FB&T #102630	10/13/2007	int. - 4.91	\$4,092.34
PBK #020033	8/30/2008	int. - 4.18	\$10,500.00
SUBTOTAL			\$80,854.28
OPERATING FUNDS	RESTRICTED	UNRESTRICTED	
	\$4,300.00	\$4,170.23	\$8,470.23
TOTAL ASSETS	\$85,154.28	\$4,170.23	\$89,324.51

T.J. Hill, IV
Treasurer

McCormack's Church



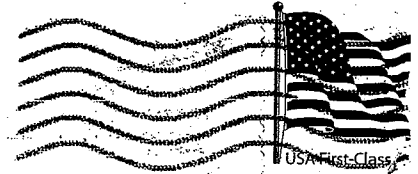
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