

Quarterly Newsletter (April, 2012)

Marion County Historical Society

"Preserving the past for the future"

Office Located at:
200 Second Street
Columbia, MS 39429
601-731-3999

marioncountyhist@bellsouth.net

Lori Watts, President
Brandi Perry, Vice-President
Kathy Morgan, Treasurer

John Ford Home and Payne's Chapel News

Several MCHS members gathered at the John Ford Home on March 24th, and cleaned and inspected the property for several hours. The following are items needing action:

Foundation Bricks:

The bricks along the base of the house are beginning to crumble. Lori Watts has contacted MDAH regarding the proper course of action and will soon be following up with them for their recommendations. This will be discussed at the next MCHS Membership Meeting.

Curtains:

The curtains in the Ford Home are ragged and discolored and in need of replacement. The membership voted to purchase new curtains and to have them hemmed to the proper length. Randy Davis is currently completing this task.

Donation and Comment Boxes:

There is a need for a place for people to make donations and provide comments for future improvements. This will also be addressed in an upcoming meeting.

Cane:

Cane is encroaching on the property to the south of the Ford Home which needs to be thinned or cut. Lori Watts is working with the Marion County Board of Supervisors and a possible cultivator to develop a list of options.

Tour Guides:

There is a need for more trained tour guides for the Ford Home. It was also noted that a standardized script needs to be developed for the use of the guides.

Payne's Chapel:

Payne's Chapel needs minor repairs and painting. Lori Watts is working with MDAH to determine the proper course of action.

Ford Home Development Committee:

A "dream-team" committee has been formed to compile a Development Plan to fully utilize the Ford Home Site. Lori Watts, Brandi Perry, Greg Price, and Randy Davis volunteered. If you would like to help, please let us know!

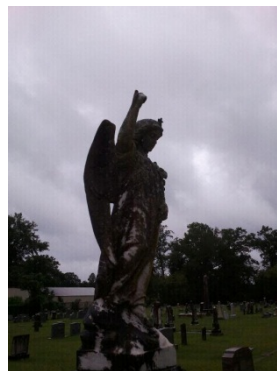


Did you know?

On May 15, 1865, only five weeks after Robert E. Lee surrendered to General U.S. Grant, at Appomatax, Union General Joseph Bailey passed through Marion County. Bailey, then famous as the "hero of the Red River," was making his way to Baton Rouge, along with a pontoon bridge brigade, the 3rd Michigan Cavalry, the 4th Tennessee Cavalry and the 10th Illinois Cavalry. Bailey's command passed through Columbia on May 15th and made their way to Atkinson's Ferry, where they built a pontoon bridge 350 feet in length. Since the war was now over, Bailey stated of the area; "the expression among the people, and strongest with the paroled soldiers, was unanimously that of pleasure that the war is over and that they were to be permitted to resume the occupations of peace." Of the now emancipated local former slaves, Bailey expressed his dismay with their actions, when he saw them "leaving their homes, taking animals with them, and attaching themselves to my command."

Historic Downtown Columbia Walking Tours!

Several weeks ago, Brandi Perry came up with the idea of ongoing guided walking tours through downtown Columbia! This is an exciting opportunity for both tourists from outside the area, as well as locals who have a thirst and passion for the history of the area. The 90-minute tour relates some of the known events from the courthouse, north up Main Street and finally the conclusion with a tour of some of the notable graves at the City Cemetery.



Rates: Adult \$10.00
Students \$1.00

Please call or e-mail the museum to book your tour today!

Heritage Festival News

The 47th Annual Heritage Festival will be held on Saturday, October 6. Planning has already begun to make this year's the best ever! Your help is needed. If you are interested in helping with any of the following committees, please e-mail marioncountyhist@bellsouth.net:

Vendor and Specialty Booths
Entertainment
Advertisement
Clean-up Crew

Celebrating Black History Month!

Sylvester Magee Marker

Dozens gathered from several states to attend the Sylvester Magee marking ceremony on February 23rd. Numerous media agencies, as well as local and state officials were on hand to participate at the event. The monument contains brief details of Magee's life. Thanks so much to all those who took part and made this happen!



Quarterly Newsletter (April, 2012)

Changes to Annual Membership Dues

Membership dues are payable on January 31st of the current year.

\$10.00 Student
\$35.00 Individual
\$100.00 Corporate

If you have not paid your current year membership dues, please do so at your earliest convenience.

Additional MCHS Activities

State Historical Markers:

Hugh White Mansion:

The new Hugh White Mansion state marker will be unveiled in 2012. Stay tuned!

Future Markers:

It was suggested that the MCHS mark two historic sites (in addition to the mansion) in the current year. A list of possible sites will be provided at next Quarter's Membership Meeting. The Membership will vote on a "Top 6" list to be given to the Executive Committee to pursue.

Publications:

Pictorial History:

A county pictorial history is scheduled for publication by this summer, celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Marion County Historical Society! This new volume will be available for purchase at the MCHS booth at the Heritage Festival, as well as on a daily basis at The Museum & Archives.

"History of Marion County":

The "History of Marion County" Committee will be meeting and starting work in the coming months.

John Ford Genealogy:

The John Ford Genealogy book, by Irene Ford Webb, is being reviewed for republishing. Dell Clawson will be providing options at the next meeting.

"A Case for Solomon":

"A Case for Solomon," by Tal McThenia and Margaret Cutright is due to be released this summer. Pre-orders can be placed at Amazon.com now. This new volume recounts the famous Bobby Dunbar case, much of which occurred in Columbia.

"Transformed":

If you haven't yet picked up your copy of "Transformed; A White Southern Pastor's Journey into Civil Rights and Beyond," by William McAtee, please do so today! Transformed fleshes out many details of some Civil Rights era events in Columbia.

Newsletter:

The Marion County Historical Society newsletter will be issued quarterly.

Civil War Trail:

The MCHS has received a request for a listing of any relevant sites that could be used in a potential future Civil War Trail. Museum Curator Chris Watts is gathering data for this request.

NOTICE!!!

The MCHS is trying to clean up our mailing and member list. If you would like to continue receiving the MCHS Newsletter, please send us your updated contact information. This information should include the following:

Name:
Address:
Phone Number:
E-mail Address:

If we do not receive correspondence from you (either snail mail or e-mail) we will remove you from the MCHS mailing list for 2013.

Mark Your Calendar

May 12, 2012: John Ford Site Clean-Up Day at 9:00 am.

Please, plan to attend. We need all the help we can get and would like to make this a semi-annual activity. Please bring cleaning cloths, brooms, and plenty of energy. We hope to see you there!

June 9, 2012: Second Quarter Membership Meeting at 4:00 pm at the Marion County Museum of History and Archives.

If you have a topic you would like discussed at this meeting, please e-mail the subject and details to marioncountyhist@bellsouth.net, no later than May 31, 2012.

September 8, 2012: Third Quarter Membership Meeting at 4:00 pm at the Marion County Museum of History and Archives.

If you have a topic you would like discussed at this meeting, please e-mail the subject and details to marioncountyhist@bellsouth.net, no later than August 31, 2012.

October 6, 2012: 47th Annual Heritage Festival

Please let us know if you would like to assist in any way.

December 9, 2012: Fourth Quarter/Annual Membership Meeting at 4:00 pm at the Marion County Museum of History and Archives.

If you have a topic you would like discussed at this meeting, please e-mail the subject and details to marioncountyhist@bellsouth.net, no later than November 31, 2012.

January 31, 2013: Time to pay Annual Membership Dues

Membership Application/Renewal

Type of Membership (mark one):

Student \$10.00 _____
Individual \$35.00 _____
Corporate \$100.00 _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-Mail: _____

**Marion County
Historical Society**

200 Second Street
Columbia, MS 39429