2012 - Battle of Lone Jack’s Sesquicentennial will be Observed in a Big Way

Well 2012 is upon us- the 150th anniversary of the Battle of Lone Jack will be this August! Every year the historical society members work hard to sponsor the annual Commemoration, held on the Saturday closest to the anniversary of the battle. But this year will be especially important!

Of course there will be the parade, the wide variety of craft booths and delicious food vendors, and there will be lots of activities and free live entertainment throughout the weekend. The Museum will be spruced up too, featuring newly updated exhibits, and special items on loan from the National Park Service museum collection at Wilson’s Creek. A highlight as always will be the military honor guard and wreath laying ceremony in the Soldiers’ Cemetery.

Once again the roar of cannon and muskets will be heard in Lone Jack! Reenactments Saturday and Sunday will feature hundreds of authentically uniformed and equipped Union and Confederate troops, cavalry and artillery, and will recreate scenarios from the battle, including Cole Younger’s daring ride through the battle lines during the fight!

And last but not least, for the first time at Lone Jack, a special candlelight tour! Travel back in time 150 years as tour guides with lanterns lead visitors through the darkness to experience the sights and sounds of the battlefield’s aftermath. Recreated living history vignettes that bear witness to the Lone Jack fight, in an intense, up-close and personal way!

The Lone Jack 150th event has been recently designated a Signature Event by the Missouri Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission. So mark your calendar- Saturday and Sunday, August 18-19, 2012- we’ll see you in Lone Jack!

For more info on Lone Jack’s 150th, visit our new web site: www.lonejackbattle150.org

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Do you have a Civil War artifact or antique you’d like to donate?
CONTACT THE MUSEUM! 816-697-8833
And not just Civil War artifacts- the museum is seeking artifacts from ALL eras of Lone Jack history! We are dedicated to preserving and sharing the hisSTORY of Lone Jack!

Lone Jack Civil War Battlefield Preservation Plan On Track & Making Progress

In 2010 Freedom’s Frontier National Heritage Area worked to secure a $55,000 grant from the American Battlefield Protection Program for the purpose of researching and developing a comprehensive preservation plan for the threatened Lone Jack battlefield.

Since that time, a steering committee comprised of historical society board members has attended informational meetings, reviewed and evaluated proposals, and are currently working with the selected consultant, Thomason & Associates Preservation Planners. Julie McPike, Project Coordinator with FFNHA, has worked closely with LJHSS members and the Lone Jack community through scheduled town hall meetings, answering questions and keeping everyone up to date, as well as making sure all benchmark deadlines are met.

Future public meetings will be held and we want your input. More info in the summer issue of The Acorn, or visit our web site, as well as our Facebook page for updates.
“Save The Cave” is the new Rallying Cry for Battlefield Preservation at LJ

“What cave?” “Where is there a cave in Lone Jack?”

One can imagine these questions being asked, and if you haven’t been reading about it in the KC Star, the Highway 50 Corridor, or on the LJHS website and Facebook page, you may not know. But it is exciting news! It is the largest piece of core battlefield property acquired for preservation since the museum and park first opened in 1963.

The “Cave” being described is a structure you’ve seen every time you drive past the park on Bynum Road. Perhaps you never really noticed it – a two-story frame structure directly across the road from the museum, clad in wooden shingles.

This is the site where Bartlett and Lucinda Cave built their home before the war, and it also served as a hotel for travelers. It was at the very epicenter of the bloody skirmish and battle fought on August 15 and 16, 1862. Used as a Union headquarters and also a field hospital, the structure was set fire and burned during the battle. To say that it is a valuable piece of historic property is an understatement. It is a fundamental component of the battle’s story.

“OK”, you might say, “but how is it being SAVED?” Well, let’s have LJHS President Alinda Miller provide the details:

“Let me tell you how this came about. In July I learned that the Cave Hotel property had been sold to a young couple to open a salon. Unfortunately they were unable to keep the salon and turned it back over to the previous owner. The Board of Directors met and decided we shouldn’t let this opportunity go as we might never get another one. After talking to the owner he was agreeable to the Historical Society purchasing the property. At the same time, the National Park Service sent an Historic Architect to Lone Jack to look at the building to try to determine the age of the present structure. While he wasn’t able to specifically pinpoint the year with his initial inspection, he was definitely able to determine that it is a mid 1800’s structure. This inspection helps corroborates local history that this building is a piece of the original Cave Hotel!! As soon as we can, however, we will conduct a more thorough archaeological study as well as a research project into the courthouse records to further narrow down the structure’s age. There is no doubt that whatever its age, it rests on the original foundation.

Also during this time frame, we had an anonymous benefactor come forward and offer us a loan towards the purchase of the property and another offer a generous donation. The owner has agreed to carry the remaining $15,000 plus interest until April 1, 2012.

Our task now is to raise the remaining $15,000 as quickly as we can to minimize the amount of interest we will have to pay. We have launched an aggressive SAVE THE CAVE fundraising campaign.

Where we go from here:
We are asking for everyone’s help. If you have any ideas or fund raisers, let me know. If you know of a foundation or business who donates, please let me know that as well. Spread the word!! Word of mouth is the fastest method I know of to get information out.

Don’t forget that we are a 501(c)3 and as such, any donations made are tax deductible.

Our philosophy is that there is no donation that is “too small” Every dollar raised will put us one dollar closer to our goal. We have several avenues to donate:
1. Through the LJHS website via Paypal
2. Directly to the Historical Society
3. Via credit card at the Museum
4. Save The Cave fund at F&C Bank where donations can be made directly to the bank.

Any funds raised in excess of the $15,000 will go towards making our payments on the loan and restoration. If you have any questions, give Alinda a call. 816-805-1815.

LONE JACK HISTORICAL SOCIETY
AND
LEE’S SUMMIT HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Cordially Invite You to Attend
An Extraordinary Evening with
COLE YOUNGER & FRANK JAMES
A Benefit to Save The
CAVE HOTEL
Hear stories of the Civil War and the Younger & James Wild West Show out for the price of a drink!
RED DOOR WINE STORE
229A SE Main St. Downtown Lee’s Summit, MO
Friday, March 23, 2012 - 8:00PM to 10:00PM
Cost: $25 per Person - Cash Bar & Appetizers
Tickets Sold at the Door the Night of the Benefit!
or purchased in advance from members of the Lone Jack Historical Society.
e-mail: president@historiclonejack.org  phone: 816-805-1815
Learn more about the Cave House! - www.historiclonejack.org

COME SEE US AT THE CAVE HOUSE FUNDRAISER MARCH 23!!
Planning Underway for 2012 Lone Jack Reenactment

The dust had barely settled on 2011’s Commemoration in August, and the LJHS 150th planning committee was already laying the groundwork for this year's big reenactment.

The biggest challenge- where to have the battle? The park grounds on the original battlefield are too small, and the surrounding landscape features a fast-food drive-in and a soon-to-be built convenience store- not a very believable setting for an authentic battle recreation.

It’s a lot to ask of a local landowner to allow a reenactment on their property, with hundreds of people and vehicles, horse trailers, etc. taking up valuable crop space or potentially damaging pasture land. Thankfully for all of us, one Lone Jack resident was willing to step up and accept the challenge- Steve Brown. As a history educator with the Blue Springs School District, Steve has a great appreciation for history- especially Lone Jack history. His family ties go back to the Civil War, where his ancestors fought at Lone Jack.

Steve is partnering with LJHS as a member of the planning committee. The challenge is to think outside the box and do things differently than in the past, in an attempt to raise the bar on authenticity for the enjoyment of the public AND the reenactors.

What is really unique is Steve’s home will be smack dab in the middle of ALL the goings on. Rather than saying “you can’t do this or that”, Steve is saying “what if we do this and that”? We will be using a little bit of Hollywood magic to transform Steve’s property into Main Street Lone Jack, circa 1862. We just have to be careful not to burn Steve’s house down during the battle.

A great deal of logistical planning has taken place, and much more will, right up to the days leading to the event August 18-19. We recently launched a website just for our 150th event. Check it out and learn all about what we have planned: www.lonejackbattle150.org.

Want to get in on the fun? We need volunteers!!! Contact LJHS and attend one of our monthly meetings. Check Calendar of Events for dates and times.

Bob Potter • 1929-2011

LJHS will miss a friend and fellow member with the passing of Bob Potter, 82, of Independence. Bob passed away December 30, surrounded by wife Ruth and loving family.

Bob was a multi-talented individual who shared his gifts with others. He was active in many charitable and historical organizations. He was a docent at the Truman Library, and joined LJHS in 2009, where he was active in many of our programs.

His ties to the Lone Jack community go back to the Civil War years. It was Bob’s great-grandfather, Benjamin Potter, who was one of the civilians murdered at the Six Man Massacre during Order No. 11 in 1863.

Thank you!

A BIG thank you to the following groups and organizations who have recently contributed to our “Save The Cave” fundraising campaign:

• CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE OF CASS COUNTY - $500
• BURNT DISTRICT PRESS of HARRISONVILLE - $100
• BURNS & McDONNEL KANSAS CITY - $500
• LEE’S SUMMIT CUB SCOUT PACK 591 LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE - $225
CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Mar 23- (Fri) 8pm “Save The Cave” Fundraiser Event
© Red Door in downtown Lee’s Summit
Meet Cole Younger & Frank James
Cost- $25/person - Cash bar & appetizers
www.historicclonjack.org

Mar 25- (Sun) 5pm - LJ150 Planning Committee Mtg
at Lone Jack Museum - Volunteers needed!
dhadley@historicclonjack.org - 913-906-3101

Mar 31- (Sat) 9am - 2pm Civil War Park Cleanup Day
Sponsored by Civil War Trust
at Lone Jack Battlefield - Volunteers needed!
www.historicclonjack.org - 816-697-8833

Apr 4- (Wed) Summer Operating Hours for Lone Jack
Museum Begin

Apr 5- (Thu) 7pm Monthly Meeting
Lone Jack Historical Society

Apr 6- (Sun) Easter - Museum Closed

May 2- (Wed) 9:00pm - 2:30pm Missouri History Day
19th C. Educational field trip for students
Info: president@historicclonjack.org - 816-805-1815

May 3- (Thu) 7pm Monthly Meeting
Lone Jack Historical Society

May 19- (Sat) 3-5pm - Lawn Tea at the Cave Hotel
19th C. Fare, Guest Speaker
Cost- $25/person Reservations required
Info: president@historicclonjack.org - 816-805-1815

May 30- (Wed) Dusk to 10pm - Memorial Illumination
Honoring Soldiers who died in the Lone Jack battle
Admission Free - Donations accepted

Contact us for more information: 816-697-8833 - www.historicclonjack.org

Join Us!
We Need Your Help!

This nonprofit corporation was organized to support, protect, and
preserve the unique history of the Lone Jack area. The primary focus
is on the Civil War Cemetery and adjoining grounds, and the Civil
War Museum. The desire is to ensure the future education of our chil-
dren, to go forward while remembering our very important past.