



Nicholas County Historical Society

Vol. 36 No 1

Building Our Future By Preserving Our Past

January 2012

Recession slows Neal Building Restoration

This recession has slowed restoration work but we were able to get the elevator installed last year thanks to a generous gift from the Asbury family. This provides handicapped access to the 5,000 square foot gathering area (Mozart Hall) above the downstairs welcome center and museum/library.

Previous restoration work provided a front stairs from the sidewalk and an emergency rear exit. With the elevator in place we are now in a position to focus on utilizing this upstairs space. Rental

of the downstairs Welcome Center for parties, meetings and receptions has proved very popular and we anticipate equal opportunities to rent Mozart Hall for larger groups.

Lack of heating and air conditioning severely restricts our ability to use Mozart Hall. However, we were able to have a bluegrass music event up there last Spring and were pleased to find the space quite suitable for large groups and the acoustics excellent, even without a sound system.

As you can imagine fed-

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Neal Building Serves Visitors, Community

Last year 434 individuals and family groups signed the guest register at the Neal Welcome Center either as tourists, casual visitors or genealogy researchers. In addition many visitors escaped the eagle eye of our docents and failed to sign the register. Of those signing, 140 were local visitors, 174 were from other towns in Kentucky, 120 were from other states and 1 visi-

tor was from China.

Also the Welcome Center was rented 53 times for private parties and community meetings. The Historical Society Board's policy is to charge \$75 for private or for-profit groups who rent the space and request non-profit community service groups to donate what they can to the maintenance and operation of the building.

By Bob Garvin

Historical Society Financial Status

The Nicholas County Historical Society is fortunate to have so many generous members who share our interest in the history of this area and our specific responsibility to preserve and operate two historic Carlisle landmarks, the L&N Depot and the Neal Building.

Your dues and donations in 2011 totaled about \$53,000 and income from Neal Welcome Center sales and rental of the Depot and Neal Welcome Center brought our total income up to slightly over \$60,000.

This was more than enough to cover our expenses of about \$27,000 required to maintain, operate and insure the two buildings.

Our bank account now stands at about \$100,000 which reflects generous past donations, particularly those in memory of our late presi-

dent, Carol Garvin, and an anonymous donor.

We estimate it will cost about \$40,000 to install the heating and air conditioning system in Mozart Hall. We will maintain a reserve contingency fund for large maintenance items and for further restoration of Mozart Hall as the Board deems prudent.

Thanks for your continued support! If you have any questions or comments please contact any board member.

By Bob Garvin

Jim Hagg leaves Curator position

The NCHS would like to say many thanks to our outgoing curator Jim Haag.

Jim has been with us since the Neal Building project started and has done a wonderful job collecting and processing the many gifts received for the building. Jim says he has just too many "irons in the fire" to continue, but will help out when he can.

We thank him for all his hard work and dedication to the Neal Building and the Historical Society.

Any members out there with the skills to help our museum would be greatly appreciated!

Society eNewsletter

If you are interested in receiving this Newsletter electronically (.pdf by email) let us know at:

NCHistorical@jones2.net

Electronic distribution reduces postage costs, providing more money for Society projects.

Calling all members!

How about becoming a docent at the Neal Building?

As the new year begins, we are updating our list of volunteers. We have some wonderful members who are already very faithful to keeping the Visitor's Center open on a regular basis, but we always need more.

You do not have to agree to a regular schedule if that does not work for you, but having members available for an occasional morning or afternoon would be a great help.

There are two docent shifts, 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays.

Please consider becoming

a volunteer for 2012!

Thank You!!

As always, many thanks to those docents who served in 2011 and (hopefully) will continue to volunteer in 2012:

Aileen Boots, Norma Buckler, Norma Caswell, Anita Clark, Bob Garvin, Linda House, Charles and Betty Guthrie, David Jackson, Ann Jones, Alex Kazunas, Michelle McDonald, Betty Morford, Don Peterson, Earl Pfansteil, Carol Power, Kay Shankland, Wanda Shroust, Jan Taylor, Jane and Gerald Watkins, Calvin Wills, and Kevin Zachary.

Recession slows Neal Building Restoration

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eral and/or state grants have dried up but thanks to supporters like you as well as rental and sales income we have been able to operate and maintain the building and accumulate enough reserve to venture out on our own and plan for a heating and air conditioning system for the upstairs area.

We are ready to take bids and hope to have it installed in a few months. Since most of the funds for this work

are from the Carol Garvin memorial fund The Historical Society board has decided to dedicate this upstairs assembly area to her with a plaque that memorializes Carol who inspired us all with her love for Carlisle and vision for this historic building.

The Carol Garvin Fund is still open for donations and contributions are encouraged so we can continue Mozart Hall renovations.

By Bob Garvin

Historic Plaques are available

The Nicholas County Historical Society is offering historical marker plaques for sale.

The plaques are identical to the ones already on many homes and businesses in Carlisle.

They commemorate the addition of buildings in Car-

lisle to the National Register of Historic Places in 1986.

The plaques are bronze and include the Historical Society logo and the year of the induction. The plaques are \$100 and are available in the Neal Building or by calling any NCHS board member.

Mozart Hall Fundraising Underway

Fundraising for the renovation and restoration of the second floor of the Neal Center - Mozart Hall - is underway!

The first step to be done is the installation of heat and air. This is also one of the most expensive parts of the project so additional help is needed and appreciated.

If you are interested in making a contribution to the fund, please indicate the project on the "note line" of your check and we will make sure it goes directly to that fund.

The Society is grateful of the support of our wonderful members.

History of Nicholas County Available

To order a copy of the History of Nicholas County, complete the information below and send the form with a check for \$50 per copy, plus \$5 per copy for postage and handling, to:

Nicholas County Historical Society
P.O. Box 222
Carlisle KY 40311

Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City, State, Zip Code: _____

Number of copies: _____

Also available at the Neal Welcome Center and the Nicholas County Library.

