Record Crowd Attends March 18
HCJ Annual Dinner Meeting

Jim Dyke, a self-professed history geek, entertained a packed crowd at Historic City of Jefferson’s Annual Dinner meeting with stories of history, scandal, and art mixed with humor. The local cartoonist capped off his talk by donating his hand-painted tie that was promptly auctioned off for $475. The proceeds went to HCJ’s current renovation projects.

The McClung Park Pavilion was lined with HCJ posters, photo displays, and student projects for guests to meander through during the pre-dinner social hour. A special thanks to Ruthie Caplinger’s EER students for their history project posters and to Nancy Thompson for the cemetery families photo display!

A recap of HCJ’s activities this past year was extensive and included $5,000 to restore the Herrick tomb in the Old City Cemetery, a $20,000 donation to the Residential Down Payment Program, ongoing renovations of a property at 224 E. Dunklin donated to HCJ by Sam and Linda Bushman, and preservation efforts of the National Cemetery Caretaker’s Cottage, besides the hugely successful Annual Homes Tour, Golden Hammer awards, restaurant fundraisers, member programs and receptions. It was a busy year!

Janet Maurer was presented with the Volunteer of the Year Award. The Preservation Pioneer Award went to charter HCJ member, Carol Blaney. Election of officers followed with Jane Beetem, Jim Kreider, and Vicki Schildmeyer re-elected to the HCJ board of directors; Bruce Bates newly elected and Melanie Stockman appointed. Jenny Smith and Holly Stitt, previously appointed to fill vacant seats, were elected to two-year terms.

Many thanks to our emcee Dick Preston, to all those who donated door prizes, the many volunteers, but especially to decorations chair Jane Beetem and co-chairs Jeanette Dulle and Kay Martellaro.

(continued on page 3)
Reception for the Missouri Conference on History
March 14 – 16, 2018

The Missouri Conference on History was held in Jefferson City this year. This annual event provides a forum for presentations of historical research about Missouri, mainly in the reading of completed papers, and is hosted overall by the Missouri State Archives. It is especially geared towards those teaching history and those with an interest in historical research and historical preservation. For example, newspaper editor, Michelle Brooks, having presented her research for the HCJ membership last October about the 62nd Colored Troops during the Civil War, presented this program again for the conference.

This year, the Historic City of Jefferson hosted the pre-conference reception at Avenue HQ on March 14.

Trolleys were provided to transport the attendees between the hotel and Avenue HQ. We also offered a pre-conference workshop on the 14th about “How to Rehab.” This was presented by HCJ Board members Donna Deetz and Jane Beetem, with many positive comments. The venue was donated, the trolleys were donated, and Donna and Jane donated their expertise for the workshop. We also thank the Missouri Retired Teachers Association for providing the refreshments for the reception. We were honored to be an active part of this conference! Next year’s conference will be held in Kansas City. For more information, go to https://shs.mo/mch/.

Submitted by Tammy Boeschen
Carol Blaney–Preservation Pioneer Recipient 2018

Carol Blaney was the 2018 recipient of HCJ's Preservation Pioneer Award. A complete list of her preservation pedigree would fill this entire newsletter! We will try to capture the highlights.

Carol was a charter member of HCJ in 1983. She served as the president, vice president, and board member. She helped create the Eastside Neighborhood Association and served on the Historic Preservation Commission for nine years. In 1998 she was elected to the city council and later served on the Prison Redevelopment Task Force, the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Task Force plus many other task forces and commissions, attending about “a million meetings”!

In 2007 she received the Gregory Stockard Distinguished Service Award from the city. In her spare time (!) she and husband Dean rehabbed six houses, one of which was the Jefferson Female Seminary on State Street (photo page 7). It is now listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

It was Jefferson City’s loss and Bellingham, WA’s gain in 2008 when she and Dean moved. As a visionary, Carol has left a lasting mark on Missouri’s Capital City. Thank You Carol!

Volunteer of the Year–Janet Maurer

Janet Maurer received the Joann Oehrke Volunteer of the Year award at HCJ’s Annual Meeting. A member of HCJ since 2006, she has served in almost every capacity as a member: Board of Directors for ten years, secretary for five, co-chair of Oral History committee, Golden Hammer Award committee member, co-chair of past annual dinners and Christmas programs, publicity coordinator, and hostess for receptions and educational programs. She helps with Homes Tours, mailings, Octoberfest booths, Heritage Art and Essay contests. All the while, Janet has been tirelessly organizing the HCJ documents, historical photos, and news clippings—a massive undertaking! The hope is to have all of HCJ’s material archived and available to the public for research.

“Volunteering for HCJ has been very rewarding as I get to work with many fun-minded and outstanding people. HCJ couldn’t accomplish all it does without everyone helping,” she said. HCJ is fortunate to have dedicated, energetic, and talented people like Janet. Thank you for all you do!
On March 20, 2018 an application was submitted to the Historic Preservation Commission to form a Local Historic District in the School Street area bounded by E. McCarty, Lafayette, E. Miller and Wear’s Creek. Promoters Jane Beetem, Cathy Bordner, and Tony and Jenny Smith began this preservation crusade a year ago after the City and the Parks department acquired its fifth house in the proposed district. City planners had been recently inspired by a 2005 Central Eastside Neighborhood Master Plan that recommended this area be returned to a green space, as it lies in a flood plain. But, of course you can’t have a green space where there are houses and, in this area, 23 houses remain here, all built before 1920.

Fortunately for this little neighborhood it has one thing that could save it…. its history.

**A Historically Black Neighborhood**

This area around School Street, nestled along the banks of Wear’s Creek, is all that remains of a once vibrant Black community. Located down the hill from Lincoln University, it became known as the “Foot.” The thriving business district of this community sat in the 500-600 block of Lafayette and was the hub of a neighborhood roughly bounded by Chestnut to the east, Jackson to the west, E. McCarty to the north, and Franklin to the south.

Going back to the tumultuous Civil War years and its aftermath, Jefferson City was occupied by Union Troops. Slaves and Freed Blacks were presumably drawn here seeking refuge; however, few places were truly safe for them. In 1861, there were 169 slave holders and 987 slaves in Cole County.

The newly freed slaves found employment mostly in domestic service in Jefferson City’s elite households including the mansions on what is now East Capitol Avenue. Lacking financial resources and unable to obtain bank loans, these former slaves populated the downtown alleys in shacks and lean-tos. In the November 2017 issue of *Yesterday and Today*, Carolyn Bening features the alleys of downtown Jefferson City in “Driving the Hogs Out of the Alley.” She details the sorry conditions in the alleyways and what led to the dispersal of blacks from these areas after 1915. So where did they go?

After the Civil War through the 1960s, the Jim Crow laws defined and enforced racial segregation and discrimination that severely restricted where blacks could go to school and church, where they could recreate, eat, and live. After blacks were run out of the alleys downtown, one area of Jefferson City was left for them. A community of blacks had previously clustered north of Lincoln University on E. Miller, Chestnut, Cherry and E. Elm. As blacks moved out of the downtown, many relocated here at “the foot” of LU.

**Cottage Place Park**

Prior to 1901, the area that now encompasses the proposed boundaries of the School Street Historic District was in fact once a “green space” of sorts. In Volume 1 of Gary Kremer’s *Heartland Histories*, he describes Cottage Place Park as the site of state horse shows, community baseball and football games. The popular horse shows drew crowds from all over, being moved to the State Fairgrounds established in Sedalia in 1901. Cottage Place Park was soon sold to Lester Shepard Parker and Cecil W. Thomas for development. Parker owned the prison industry The L.S. Parker Shoe Company. Thomas was a one-time mayor and married to Celeste Bolton Price, granddaughter of Jefferson City’s first mayor, Thomas L. Price. The grandstand at Cottage Place Park was dismantled and the area became the Parker-Thomas subdivision.

The houses in the newly formed subdivision were built between 1900 and 1920 for the working class in Queen Anne, Classical Revival, Colonial Revival, and Craftsman styles. Further research would be useful to determine the ethnic mix of residents in those early years, but by the 1930s and into the 1960s, it was predominantly populated by black residents. Oral histories of those that live in the “Foot” during the Jim Crow years recall that E. McCarty, the northern boundary of this subdivision, was considered the “red line” beyond which blacks were not welcome.
An Elite Neighborhood

The history of the “Foot” cannot be told apart from the backdrop of Lincoln University. Nathan B. Young became president of LU in 1923 on a mission to create a “first-class institution of higher learning in the Middle West.” The Midwest was rigidly racist and up until 1950, blacks were prohibited at institutions of higher learning, including the University of Missouri. Young succeeded in his mission by recruiting a cadre of some of the most gifted and dedicated black professors anywhere in the Midwest. They were Ivy-league educated from Harvard, Yale, Columbia, and Cornell, among others.

History professor W. Sherman Savage came to LU in the 1920s, author of the classic “Blacks in the West.” Sterling Brown was famous for “Checkers,” a poem among others he wrote that captured life in the “Foot” where Brown lived. Writer Cecil Archibald Blue came in the 1930s and penned the classics “The Flyer” and “The Negro Caravan.” His colleagues Lorenzo Greene and Oliver Cromwell Cox also came in the 1930s among many more worth mentioning. See the accompanying box for a more complete list. Many of these accomplished black professors resided in the 400-500 blocks of Lafayette and 700 block of E. Miller.

The 1920s up to 1960 were Lincoln’s golden years but things changed dramatically after Brown vs. Board of Education in 1950. As educational opportunities expanded, Lincoln now had competition for the top black students as well as for black professors.

The heyday for the community in the “Foot” was also coming to an end. Plans for the Rex Whitton Expressway were underway, so scores of houses were demolished between E. Miller and E. Elm. A dismantling of the “Foot” by the Housing Authority began. The tensions between the university blacks and the town blacks may have given some momentum to this. By the mid 60s the ravages of Urban Renewal took its toll and the business district of the “Foot” was gone. It was a tumultuous time for blacks who had lost their community. The Fair Housing Act of 1968 prohibited discrimination in housing but, none the less, the displaced black residents from the “Foot” were not warmly welcomed into the surrounding white neighborhoods.

School Street Historic District

A local historic district designation in this area could preserve this important place that mirrored the challenges encountered by freed slaves and their descendants throughout the country after the Civil War. Further destruction of this place cuts us off from our past. In the words of social historian Gary Kremer, “...place is important...a location of experience. The experience does not happen anywhere else but the place. How do you recreate the place when the buildings are gone?”

Submitted by Jenny Smith
This year the annual HCJ Homes Tour will return to Moreau Drive to feature five homes in one of Jefferson City’s classiest east end neighborhoods. This area, rich in early 20th-century architecture, was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 2013. The district extends from Atchison on the north end to Moreau Drive’s intersection with Greenberry on the south end and includes the side streets along that stretch: Hillcrest, Fairmount, Oakwood, Lee, Elmerine, Vineyard, and Moreland.

Plans include five homes in the district within a radius of a half-mile. One of these is the stunning home of Craig and Ruthie Sturdevant, an architectural treasure historically known as the Louis Ott home built in 1931 at 1201 Moreau. Our homes tour logo (right) is the inked drawing of the door of the Ott home by local artist Mary Ann Hall.

The August newsletter will have more details as to when and where advance tickets can be purchased. Day-of-tour tickets can be purchased at any of open houses on the tour.

Over the years, HCJ has had a spotless record taking care of the homes featured on our tours. This is due to our dedicated volunteers, but the tour takes many volunteers! If you can help as a house host, greeter, or with various other tour duties, please contact volunteer coordinator Claudia Goodin at 573-636-4013 or ldy4th@embarqmail.com.

Sponsorships are an important part of the success of our tour. A sponsorship includes a mention of the business in the August and November issues of the newsletter, the HCJ website, and visitor guide distributed on the day of the tour. To be one of our sponsors, please contact Jim Kreider at mrtadirectorkreider@mrt.org. Chairwoman Janet Gallaher has returned this year to direct a dedicated team to coordinate various aspects of the tour. There are a lot of moving parts! If you have questions, please contact Janet at jwgjog@aol.com.

You can now support HCJ when you place your online purchases on Amazon through the AmazonSmile program! Start your shopping experience at http://smile.amazon.com, choose Historic City of Jefferson as your charitable organization, and Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible purchases to HCJ!
Don’t Miss These Two Downtown Events on May 6!

Secret Spaces, Hidden Spaces– Downtown Jefferson City 1-4pm

If you’ve ever been curious about some of the historic buildings in the core of Jefferson City, this is an event you won’t want to miss! The event will feature both finished and unfinished spaces. Come see the transformations! A map of properties and trolley route will be available at the check-in tents the day of the event. Trolleys will be running special routes between the featured properties. **Tickets are $5 each and will be available for purchase April 9 at Carrie’s Hallmark, Samuels Tuxedos, Central Bank, and Hawthorn Bank.** They can also be purchased the day-of at the event tents at High/Jefferson and Capitol/Lafayette. “Hidden Spaces” is a cooperative effort of the Jefferson City Area Chamber of Commerce, Downtown Jefferson City, Inc., and the Historic City of Jefferson.

Porchfest JCMO– 500-700 block of Capitol Avenue 1-4pm

Have you ever sat on your porch and enjoyed hearing a neighbor strumming a guitar on a nearby porch? “Porchfest” takes this idea and multiplies it to create a free, family-friendly event where the community can share their love of playing and listening to music by holding porch concerts in different neighborhoods. The festival is centered around local music, art, food, and community hospitality. There will be a wide range of diverse musical styles participating. Event headquarters will be located at Avenue HQ.
Herrick and Walker Cemetery Plot Renovations Complete

The Wait is Over! Recent renovations to the Herrick family vault and the Sarah Walker granite stone marker in the Woodland-Old City Cemetery may now be viewed. The initial ceremony was held at the Historic Cemetery Walking Tour on Saturday, April 21 sponsored by HCJ and the Cemetery Resources Board.

Important to HCJ members is the restored Herrick vault, to which HCJ appropriated $5000. The above-ground interment tradition, normally found in New Orleans and Ste. Genevieve, Missouri, is unique to Jefferson City. The vault is the final resting site of Charlotte (Mrs. Emory) Herrick (1856-1897); her sister- in-law Melvina (Elvire) Herrick (1871-1889); her father-in-law Ebenezer Herrick (1837-1873); and Charlotte’s mother, Margaret (Kielly) Rich, who died in 1913. The contractor for the Herrick vault was Frank Rustemeyer Masonry and assistant Clarence Laushe.

Charlotte Herrick’s October 20, 1897 obituary describes her remains interred in Woodland cemetery, where “Mr. [Emery] Herrick, the husband of the deceased, will have prepared a grave lined with brick and cement so that it will be almost equal to a vault.” [JC Daily Tribune] Shane McLain, a relative of Charlotte’s paternal Rich family, shared family genealogy and photos on the tour, along with ten other community researchers of various individuals now residing in the historic cemetery.

A second Old City Cemetery restoration project, with a $2000 appropriation from the Thomas Lawson Price Society, involved the repair and granite stone inscription replacing the illegible original marker for Sarah Walker (1781-1849). Sarah, the niece of President Andrew Jackson, was born in Campbell County, Virginia and died at age fifty-seven in the capital city. Her husband, John Walker, was Missouri’s fourth treasurer and is buried nearby in the State Lot. On the tour, Marilyn Gross presented historical research on Sarah Walker whose damaged stone was repaired by Capital City Monuments. An enormous Thank You to Nancy Thompson and Jane Beetem for overseeing these important cemetery restoration projects.

Submitted by Carolyn Bening

Bruce Bates

moved to Jefferson City in 1989. He has been a member of HCJ for several years and was recently elected to the HCJ Board of Directors at the Annual Dinner meeting. He has volunteered with the Oral History Project, the Homes Tours, the Annual Dinner, and the Chicken Dinner, to name a few. Bruce is employed as a private attorney, primarily representing children in contested divorce, custody or paternity actions, adoptions, and people of any age in need of a guardian or conservator. He has a Bachelor’s and Master’s degrees in history besides a Jurisprudence degree. He is not married and has no children.

Getting to Know You—Bruce Bates

1. Why did you join HCJ? I have a long-standing interest in history going back to my youth and school days. I am very interested in how Jefferson City came to be and how it grew - both the people who built it and the city they built.

2. What do you like best about being a member of HCJ? I enjoy working with people who have the same interest I do in preserving the best of Jefferson City for ourselves and those who come after us, and being involved with them in programs and activities that effect that.

3. Do you have a favorite HCJ program or activity? I enjoy everything, but if I had to pick two, I would say the Oral History Project is my favorite, and the Homes Tour is next.

4. If someone asked you the benefits of HCJ membership, what would you say? I would say that you have the opportunity to work with other committed Jefferson Citians to learn more about your community and do something important to preserve its history for the future.

5. What do you think is the most effective way for HCJ to achieve its historic preservation mission? By working with others inside and outside the group to make the community aware of the value of what those before us have left us, through education campaigns and direct interaction with local government entities, such as the City Council.

6. What one thing might HCJ members be surprised to learn about you? Columbia is my hometown and I went to Law School there, but during the time I have lived here, I have come to love Jefferson City and this feels like home to me more so than Columbia.
Jane Beetem, local architectural historian, describes for the National Register the 400 and 500 blocks of Lafayette, E. McCarty, and School Streets as places where African Americans were allowed to live when segregated housing was routine before passage of the Fair Housing Act of 1968. As detailed in the May 2017 HCJ newsletter, Lafayette Street housed several of the most accomplished black intellectuals serving as Lincoln University (LU) professors in the 1920s-1940s when the University was called the “Black Harvard of the Midwest.” Even before LU was created after the Civil War, these eastside neighborhoods were home to the working class African Americans who had lived there for generations, establishing their businesses in the “Foot” to serve the black community.

Unfortunately, urban renewal is marching down Lafayette again, intent on destroying what remains of this historic neighborhood. Only Dr. William Ross Jr.’s house remains in the 500 block of Lafayette. Dr. Ross marched with Dr. Martin Luther King at Selma and practiced medicine in this office for fifty-three years. No historic buildings remain on the 600 or 800 blocks of Lafayette, formerly a dense residential area and the city’s most important black commercial area, according to Beetem.

Our featured historic home at 408 Lafayette, one of only a handful notable buildings remaining on the street, sits on the corner of Handley Way. Unfortunately, the city has scheduled this multi-family home for demolition after HCJ’s many attempts for rescue. The three-story painted white brick structure of 2277 square feet, has a basement, small attic, single-posted front porch, and a pyramidal roof seen in other homes in the district. Built in 1900, its architecture is simple, representing housing typical of middle-class families from 1885 to 1920.

As early as 1913, 408 Lafayette was home to Jesse D. Hampton, assistant superintendent at Star Clothing Company located in the penitentiary. From the 1920s through the 1940s, his widow Blanche Hampton resided in their home. In the 1950s, LU instructors and employees shared the apartments at 408 Lafayette: Department Chair and instructor Armistead S. Pride; Professor Eugene Harms; Instructor Alyce R Payton, and M.S. Lusk, an administrative clerk.

Living at 408 in the 1950s, Armistead S. Pride, a graduate of Northwestern University with a Master and Doctorate in Journalism, headed the journalism department at Lincoln University for 33 years. He was hired by the University during the 1920-40s. As an accredited historian of the African American press in the U.S., he compiled The Black Press: A Bibliography; published in 1968 by the Association for Education in Journalism. Professor Pride died in April 1991 at age 83. [Chicago Tribune obituary]

This Place at 408 Lafayette Matters to all Jefferson Citians— for its cultural significance of the city’s African American population, for its importance to the history of Lincoln University, for the capital’s architectural record, and, most important, for the building of our community’s history and traditions for the children and grandchildren—our next generation of story-keepers.

Submitted by Carolyn Bening
OUR MISSION: To proactively preserve our historic resources and create an environment that makes preservation a central focus for the future development in the City of Jefferson.

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