

# Friends of Fort Davidson Annual Meeting Minutes

March 09, 2013 2:00 PM  
Visitor Center Library  
Fort Davidson SHS

Present: President Terry Cadenbach, Chris and Twyla Warren, Scott Killan, Marty Aubuchon, Emmett Taylor III

Representing Fort Davidson: Walt Busch, Brick Autry & Yvonne Bobbitt

Friend's President, Terry Cadenbach called meeting to order at 2:06 PM. Brick began to take minutes.

For Sandra Walther, Walt presented the Treasurer's Report. A summary of financial activity was included in the agenda along with a brief statement:

Coin & medal sets have been sold at \$30 (wholesale price) and at \$35 per set. We also gave one away to St Louis Civil War Roundtable for their auctions as a 'thank you' for past gifts. We have 52 sets unsold of our original 100. So - 47 sold times at least the \$30 is \$1,410. We have profited at least \$400 so far on these sales. This report was made up before to Turner's Brigade Spring Drill week-end (at which we expect to sell several more medal sets). Respectfully, Sandra Walther, Treasurer.

Walt expounded on the report and reported that now there is \_\_\_\_\_ in the Friend's account.

Terry also explained that this year, Friend's two bank accounts in Ironton, Missouri were combined into just one on the account that one bank began to require what was regarded as exorbitant services charges and that now, Friend's has just one account at First State Bank in Ironton.

Walt brought up the subject that since the 150<sup>th</sup> Battle Pilot Knob Commemorative Coin & Medal sets (mentioned in the Treasurer's report) were selling so very well, that Friend's might consider ordering un-numbered coins and medals and selling them somewhat cheaper than the special edition numbered coin and medal sets. After a bit of discussion, Terry suggested that Friend's might order 100 of each coin and 100 medals and we could discuss and decide a little later, because.....

At this point, Terry wanted to talk about his project which is changing the name of the Historic Site from Fort Davidson State Historic Site to Battle of Pilot Knob State Historic Site. Terry reported that he discussed this Governor Nixon's office, and that he doesn't understand what the hold-up is. Terry expects to learn more in the near future as he plans to continue meeting about it. He hopes that the name will be changed by the 2014 Reenactment. There was some discussion why Terry worked to have the name of the Site changed and he gave a brief list as to why, mentioning that it identified the battle, which made it easier for one to associate the event with the site and also, it better matches the names of other Missouri State Historic Sites that are Civil War battlefields, (Battle of Lexington State Historic Site, for example, etc....).

Next, Terry discussed the preparations for Battle of Pilot Knob Reenactment, 2014. Right now, one of his concerns is procuring a horse and buggy for the person who will portray General Price during the Reenactment. He says he is still working on this.

He noted that Walt and Brick have been lining up possible presentations during the week preceding the Reenactment week-end. To wit:

Evening lectures by Dave Dillard, and Bob Schultz. Some other things to consider: 19<sup>th</sup> Cent. baseball match, a Civil War trivia contest night, a reader's theater presentation or a play, a cast iron cooking contest, a candle light tour.....

Walt felt a presentation of the movie, "The General" in the Visitor Center is a good possibility. Another activity that is scheduled for certain is two guided hikes up Pilot Knob Mountain. One member of the meeting said that they had heard about a concertina playing contest that was successful and suggested that. Another mentioned a geo-caching challenge involving the Battle of Pilot Knob granite markers scattered throughout the Valley. Walt also reported that he has been able to obtain models of Immanuel Lutheran Church and the Iron County Courthouse used in the Centennial celebrations and he will find a place to display them during the Reenactment.

Emmett Taylor raised the concern about planning to accommodate the many participants that will be expected to come because this will be a 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary event. Terry and Walt each explained how they planned accommodating crowds and listed examples such as meetings with Park Rangers, local law enforcement, Chamber of Commerce, and then Terry reiterated, as he has on several occasions, what his main concerns are about the event and what he does or will do about them. He mentioned commercial vendors, reenactor's dogs, badly behaved cavalry horses.

Walt, in following up on Emmett's mentioning of 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary events, told about the Missouri Department Sons of Union Veterans plans a Price's Raid

event series in 2014 but that so far, only two events for this, Battle of Pilot Knob and Battle of Westport have been planned.

Terry added that there have been no other events planned other than the two mentioned above, and that perhaps the economy is to blame. However, he says, that he has visited with the state Sesquicentennial Commission only to find that they have not done anything concerning promotional events. As far as Battle of Pilot Knob Reenactment is concerned, he says, there are already registration packets presented on-line and returning to Emmett's concern for a moment, noted that the number of participants can be judged by the number of these registration packets that are sent in.

Now the discussion turned to Marty Aubuchon and the Engineer's project of planning the Reenactment presentation of blowing up of the Fort Davidson powder magazine. He summarized the evaluation of last Reenactment presentation, noting that visually, it was very good but that he hopes to add a more convincing explosion and that he and Terry are both looking for solutions that will bring this about. They want a certain sensation of concussion this time so that the explosion is truly authentic (but safe). They shortly discussed what they had explored so far, and noted what was possible and what wouldn't work out. Marty also mentioned that a scaled map of the park will be used in placing and positioning troops, artillery, etc.—which brought up the subject of having simulated cannon fire from Shepherd Mountain and plans for that.

Emmett asked if Reenactors would represent Ewing leaving the fort with muffled wagons and horse hooves. Terry answered yes.

Terry further went on to say that there would be a Friend's work day the summer before the event so that extra clean up and paint up jobs could be done, thus helping park maintenance staff prepare the grounds.

As far as other Reenactment preparations, Walt mentioned that by Reenactment time there might be a bridge over Knob Creek if money becomes available through RTP funding and it will ease the Reenactor's problem of getting to and from their parking lot. Also, in regard to future funds, the state bond issue should include money for State Parks and in case it comes about, Walter asked the membership for any suggested improvements or projects they might suggest.

This last discussion reminded Terry to mention that Friend's has money and that if any member discovers artifacts or items of historical interest regarding the area or the battle please let him or Walt know so that these items can be purchased before they get away. Two carte-de-visites were shown that Friends recently acquired picturing the Fort stable boss and wagon master.

Walt noted that the Allers Collection, a set of nearly 50 items from the battlefield has been offered for sale by Carolyn Ewless and that shortly Friends will get this collection appraised and thanks to Friend's we should be able to keep many interesting artifacts.

This prompted a suggestion related to Reenactment events. One member suggested the possibility of holding presentation something like Antique Roadshow.

About the time that Terry mentioned his attempts to schedule a wine vendor for the Reenactment, the Turner Brigade meeting was announced so the Friend's annual meeting quickly drew to a conclusion. Terry said he would continue with lining up a wine vendor, announced that the next meeting would be in March 2014, time to be announced and adjourned the meeting at 4:17 PM.