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Dedication of Historic Marker in Bloomfield

SEPTEMBER 02ND 2015 BY DEE LOFLIN

Dedication of Historic Marker in Bloomfield

Bloomfield, Missouri - Historians Jim and Sue Mayo along with Dr. Frank Nickell, and Rev. Ron Dunavin were on hand for the unveiling of the latest historical marker at the old Stoddard County Courthouse in Bloomfield on Sunday afternoon.

Dr. Frank Nickell, director of the Southeast Missouri branch of the Historical Society of Missouri told a story of Asa Ladd, a Bloomfield native who enlisted in the Confederate Army in 1861 and was executed along side six Confederate soldiers who were innocent of any crimes. It was an incredibly sad tale of a Civil War hero who was executed for the deaths of six Union soldiers.

Dr. Nickell read two letters from Asa Ladd, one to his wife and one to his father. Neither of the letters ever reached his family. Amy lived the rest of her life not knowing what really happened to her husband.

</images/2015 Images/Asa 1.jpg>

"Asa had written a [letter to his father](#) explaining what was to happen between two and 4 o'clock. He told his father not to worry about the state of his faith as it was well founded. He asked that his father take care of his debts and stated that he wanted his family to come back to his home place. The original letter still remains yellowed, and crumbled, tucked away in the bible of my Aunt," commented Ron Dunavin.

"He wrote a letter to his dear wife Amy. He advised her not to cross the St. Francis River when the water was up. He told her to stay there until the dry season. It has been told that Amy did not receive the letter for she had packed up and went to her home lands in Ark before the letter had ever arrived. Ransom had spent many months trying to locate Amy. It is said that Amy never received the letter from her husband and it was kept in Ransoms Bible until it was one day claimed by Asa's son-in-law Ike Emery," stated Dr. Nickell.

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On the bronze plaque outside of the courthouse the marker reads, "Dear wife and children, I take my pen with trembling hand to inform you that I have to be shot between two and four o'clock this evening. I have but a few hours to remain in this unfriendly world. There is six of us sentenced."

Rev. Ron Dunavin traveled from Arkansas to attend the dedication. He is a direct descendant of Asa Ladd. His mother was the granddaughter of Asa and Amy.

According to military records, Asa Ladd enlisted in the Civil War March 10, 1861 in Stoddard County, Mo. He served with Jacksons Co A, Burbridge's Regiment, 4th Missouri Calvary. He was captured by the Union army in Sedalia, Mo. on October 16, 1864.

He was then taken to Jefferson City and remained there for eight days, then was sent to Gratiot Street prison in St. Louis on the 25th of October 1864.

Asa had been a farmer, and all this fight and run tactics must have been very wearing on him. He seemed to be quite confused at his interrogation in Gratiot Street Prison; he answered some questions as though he were not entirely sure of his answers. For example: To the question "Have you a wife - children?" he replied, Wife and four children. The Census Records show that he had seven children. To the question "Have you relatives in the Rebellion?" he answered that he had two brothers-in-law; this was scratched out and "a brother" inserted. (His brother-in-law, John Allen, served in the Union Army).

One can only imagine what he was going through and what he must have worried about during

/images/2015 Images/Asa 3.jpg

those long desperate One thing for sure is that Asa was a Godly man. He was raised of the Methodist faith; his father pastored at the Sadlers Chapel Church in Dexter.

At the Battle of Pilot Knob, near Bloomfield, Mo., in September of 1864, Union Major James Wilson and six of his men were captured by the Confederates.

According to Brig. Gen. Thomas C. Fletcher, USA, "they were held for one week, then turned over to Major Tim Reeves, CSA of Marmaduke's command. Major Wilson was taken out and hung and his men were shot.

When word of his execution reached Gen. Rosecrans, commanding the Department of the Missouri, he issued a retaliatory order to the effect that a Major and six enlisted men of the Rebel captives be shot.

In carrying out this order, only those prisoners who refused to take the Oath of Allegiance to the Federal Government were selected. These men were taken into a room where they were ordered to draw marbles, of which there were six black ones, was held above eye level so the men could not see the color they were drawing. The ones drawing a white marble were freed - those drawing a black one were to be executed. Asa drew a black marble. and hence the execution of Asa Ladd went into the history books of man who paid for a crime he did not commit.

It is a dream of Jim and Sue Mayo to complete 21 total bronze markers in the area. This was number ten. Taps was played while the unveiling of the marker commenced and a prayer was said over the marker.

Shown in the photo are Dr. Frank Nickell, Jim Mayo, Sue Mayo, and Rev. Ron Dunavin.

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Michael's Pizzeria Ribbon Cutting

AUGUST 26TH 2015 BY DEE LOFLIN

Michael's Pizzeria Ribbon Cutting

Bloomfield, Missouri - The Bloomfield Chamber of Commerce hosted a Ribbon Cutting for Michael's Pizzeria. Owned by Michael Kirkland, the pizzeria has been in business a few months; however recently had a new building put in place.

Located at 404 Highway 25 in Bloomfield. They offer more than pizza. You will find their new taco salad on the menu as well as wings, chocolate chip pizza, pasta, subs, and cheesesticks.

Follow them on Facebook by clicking **HERE** to find out weekly specials. Give them a call at (573) 568-3755 and order your delicious pizza!

Shown in the photo are front row from left to right: Sue Mayo, Jim Mayo, Goldie DeGroup, Michael Kirkland, Alex Bell, Katy Jones and Paula Yancy. Back row are Glen Cantrell, Brooke Allen, and Toni Hill.

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From Soup to Nuts - Katys House

AUGUST 24TH 2015 BY DEE LOFLIN

From Soup to Nuts - Katys House

Bloomfield, Missouri - The Bloomfield Chamber of Commerce held a Ribbon Cutting for From Soup to Nuts Katys House located at 307 East Court St.

Owner, Katy Jones, opened the restaurant that features daily lunch specials and catering services. Her small bistro specializes in hillbilly gourmet!

Katys House is open Monday thru Friday from 11:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. Full meal includes drink, dessert, and tax for \$8.00. The sandwiches are to die for and the dessert is mouthwatering good!

Some of the items found on the menu included Katy Melt, Chicken Salad, Pimento Cheese, Broccoli Salad, Cucumbers & Onions, Pea Salad, Cottage Cheese, Fruit, Mac & Cheese, Scalloped Potatoes, Blueberry Sorbet, Strawberry Margarita Pie, Chicken Green Chili Tacos, Refried Beans & Rice, Grilled Pineapple, Raspberry Custard, Low-Sugar items, and more. Just depends on the day what she might have cooked up and ready to serve.

Please follow her on Facebook for specials by clicking **[HERE](#)**.

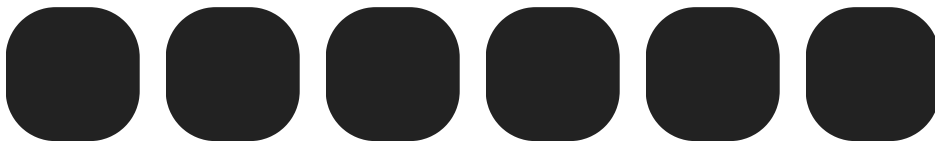
Shown in the photo are front row from left to right: Paula Yancy, Jessy Martin, Katy Jones, Sue Mayo, Brooke Allen, and Goldie DeGroup. Back

row are Michael Kirkland, Diane Mitchell, Jim Mayo, Toni Hill, and Glen Cantrell.

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Students Attend Harding University Honors Symposium

AUGUST 15TH 2015 BY DEE LOFLIN

Students Attend Harding University Honors Symposium

Searcy, Arkansas - Three local students from Dexter and Bernie attended the The Harding Honors Symposium.

This is a two-week academic program on the Searcy campus designed to challenge, encourage, and uplift rising high school Seniors. Students from all across the nation come together for the purpose of growing spiritually and academically. Three hours of university credit are awarded to all who successfully complete the Symposium.

Admission to the Symposium is based on ACT score, GPA, and a letter of recommendation from the student’s school outlining academic ability and leadership roles.

The typical day involved lectures, discussion groups, and interactive classes. Students participated in HUT, which is a poverty simulation. Students were grouped arbitrarily into nationalities and lived as these people would for approximately 12 hours, including overnight. Some students, including Kalee Howard and Zac Tanner, were refugees who had to stand in line for several hours filling out paperwork and then had to sleep overnight in a makeshift refugee camp tent that they had to put up. They were given enough “money” to buy cornmeal, a potato and an onion to cook and feed the 6 members of their “family”.

Tyler Stevenson’s “family” picked blackberries for two hours to be paid to purchase food. They were able to buy 1 potato for their “family” of six.

HUT is a 2 week unique missions training village at camp Tahkodah under the direction of Harding University.

Other activities the students enjoyed included a day of service in the community, rock wall climbing, and a one day canoe trip to finish out their two week experience.

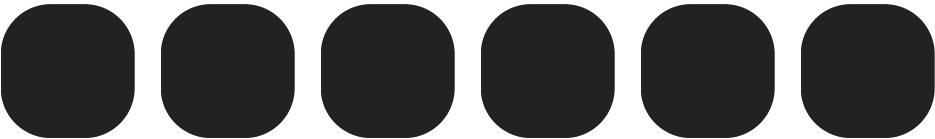
Shown in the photo are from left to right: Zackary Tanner of Bernie, Kalee Howard of Dexter, Abby Stinnett of Quincy, IL, and Tyler Stevenson of Dexter.

Submitted by Kay Stevenson.

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A Tribute to Our Heroes of the Vietnam War

AUGUST 11TH 2015 BY DEE LOFLIN

A Tribute to Our Heroes of the Vietnam War

Dexter, Missouri - A special ceremony paid tribute to veterans who served in Vietnam was held on Sunday afternoon. A heat advisory was in place, but that did not stop the hundreds who came out to pay their respect and honor those who fell in combat so many years ago.

The ceremony opened with the Presentation of Colors by the American Legion Kenady-Hanks Post #59 Honor Guard followed by the Pledge of Allegiance by Boy Scout Dylan Long, son of Misty and Tony Long of Dexter.

Members of Dexter High School band performed our National Anthem followed by Lauren and Caroline Powers who sang God Bless America. They are the daughters of Chuck and Felicia Powers of Dexter.

Rev. Justin Sponaule performed the Invocation as well as the Benediction.

Mayor Joe Weber had the honor of hosting the ceremony and introduced Brigadier General (Ret.) Charlie Kruse, featured keynote speaker for the event.

Kruse quoted two songs that he felt reflected the memory of the soldiers who lost their lives fighting for our freedom.

The first song he quoted was by Tim McGraw called "If You're Reading This". "If you are reading this my Mommas sittin' there. Looks like I only got a one way ticket over here. Sure wish I could give you one more kiss....."

"Many men did get a one-way ticket to Vietnam, 58,220 men and women never returned to give their momma a kiss," commented Kruse.

The second song Kruse quoted was by the Statler Brothers called "More Than A Name on A Wall".

"I saw her from a distance as she walked up to the wall. In her hand she held some flowers as her tears began to fall. And she took out pen and paper as to trace her memories and she looked up to heaven and the words she said were these....., "Lord my boy was special and he meant so much to me and oh, I'd love to see him just one more time You see. All I have are the memories and the moments to recall. So Lord could you tell him he's more than a name on a wall."

Kruse recognized veterans and especially Vietnam Veterans in the audience as they were asked to stand or waive to the crowd. He also spoke of numerous volunteers who helped bring The Moving Wall to Dexter.

He finished by saying how proud he was to live in Dexter and how proud and honored he was to speak today and be a part of the ceremony.

The Stoddard County Honor Guard performed a Gun Salute followed by Adam Clark and Cody Jinkerson who performed Taps together.

"It is the ultimate honor to be on the wall," commented one participant. "The Wall is a place to heal and reflect. I am so glad it came to Dexter, so proud of our community."

Many spectators were moved to tears today.

Those on the wall from Stoddard County are Sgt. Jimmie Joe Butler and WO John David McCluskey of Bernie; SP4 Jesse Ray Huges, Jr., and PFC Carroll Leon Welty of Bloomfield; Sgt. Curtis Dean Eskew, PFC George Alan Kiger, SP4 Donald Richard Mayberry, LCpl Kenneth Wayne Parker, 1Lt. and George Kenton Sisler of Dexter.

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