

HAPPENING'S AT THE FORT

BY LINDA PATE, CURATOR OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES, HUGUENOT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Everyone is talking about the weather. Restoration work continues on the exterior of the Fort. The masons finished the south side in the summer and are working on the west and north sides



Working on the Windows at the Fort

this fall. There was a section on the west wall that had been covered by the addition for many years. That section contained a good example of the original type of mortar joint and the masons are recreating that raised joint all around the building.

They will continue their re-pointing work this fall as long as the weather holds out. They will return in the spring, as soon as weather permits, and finish the masonry work on the north and east walls.

Winter will be the time when the Restoration Crew of the Huguenot Historical Society will return to finish the window repair and re-glazing project they began last winter. Also in the winter and early spring, the painters who painted the downstairs will return to the Fort to paint the upstairs hallway and two bedrooms in preparation for the DuBois Family Exhibit. The plan, weather permitting, is to have it all done in time for Opening Day festivities in the spring.

GENEALOGIST'S CORNER

BY CATHARINE SMITH, DBFA GENEALOGIST



Last newsletter, we began a story that was sent to Bill Heidgerd by Ruth Sims. In it, the Indians near Elizabethtown, KY had taken

Elizabeth Hart, a descendant of Sarah VanMeter, daughter of Louis DuBois and three of her children captive in 1792.

They killed the little girl just a short distance from the cabin because she cried and the Indians were afraid the followers would hear her. They killed Miles JR. because he had a sore foot and couldn't keep up. This left Joe and his Mother the only captives and she was ready to have another child and could barley keep up.

She was required to carry kettles and to cook for the Indians. During the day they waded waist-deep across an ice filled creek. They crossed the Ohio River into the Northwest Territory. At nightfall she was delegated to kindle fires for the Indians and then to go aside to kindle a fire for herself, raking up as best she could rubbish from under the snow and there alone, unaided by the kind assistance known to civilized life, she delivered a son.

The squaws then showed a little kindness in the morning by giving her a little water

in which a turkey had been boiled. Then cutting a block from a tree, they wrapped a piece of blanket around the infant, fastened it to the block and laid the block upon her back. They then continued their march. After six months of hard treatment the infant died. Elizabeth dug a grave and buried her child. The next morning as she went to fetch water, she found the baby lying in her path. The Indians had disinterred the body and placed it there. She took the baby and buried it again, but the next morning as she went to the spring she discovered the baby's head in her path, the Indians had cut the head from the body.

She again took the baby and buried it, but the following morning the same event occurred. She realized she would be taunted by this as long as she showed she cared, so she just took her foot and pushed the baby's head out of her path and went on her way. After that she never saw the baby again and she supposed that they buried it.

After they crossed the Ohio River, Joe and his mother were separated. One tribe went one way with Joe and Elizabeth wound up near present day Detroit. Joe was rescued by his uncles, but Elizabeth spent several years in captivity. She finally convinced a French trapper to purchase her, promising him that her family would pay for her return.

GENEALOGY QUERIES

Another new section that we are adding to the DuBois Family News is the opportunity for you to ask specific genealogy questions.

You can send your requests to newsletter@dbfa.org. For each newsletter we will select a few questions to publish. Please include a way for people to contact you should they have the information you are looking for. This can be a telephone number, mailing address, or even an email address.

We also provide a genealogy look up service for a nominal fee to help you find those long lost ancestors or break down that genealogical brick wall. That service continues to be available.

Look for the first set of genealogical queries in the next issue!



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