

# The Timeline

Kentucky  
junior  
historical  
society

FALL '09

**page 2**

KJHS Members Place 11th in Annual  
Statewide Photo-Essay Contest  
Meet KJHS 2009-2010 Executive Committee

**page 3**

New Kentucky Junior Historians Conference  
to be Held May 7-8 in Frankfort  
KJHS Executive Committee

**page 4**

Family History Fun



## Heritage Hoedowners Perform at Kentucky State Fair

If you attended the 2008 Annual Convention, then you remember the Heritage Hoedowners, the dancing-singing group from Carter County. Started several years ago by Donna Bond, Heritage Elementary KJHS sponsor, this group of Carter County KJHS members (some now in high school) performs their take on traditional Appalachian song and dance across the state several times a year at such venues as the Kentucky Horse Park. This year, the Kentucky Historical Society was pleased to include the group on its stage at the 2009 Kentucky State Fair, held Aug. 20-30 in Louisville.

## 47th Annual KJHS Convention Drew Members from Across the State

Daniel Beams, Reporter

The 2009 Kentucky Junior Historical Society (KJHS) convention was an amazing success! Members, sponsors and parents came from around the state to participate in the yearly event. There were a variety of activities and competitions, and the Friday night session was a blast! Entertainment was provided by the talented band Kentucky Wild Horse. Much of the audience participated in song and dance as the band played traditional Kentucky music.

During the closing session, a new leadership committee was elected and sworn in. Congratulations to the new board! These students will take part in a summer workshop and complete a project in their community. Those chosen to participate were Chelsey Nimmie, Isaac Petty, Abby Gaskins and Andi Graham, all from Taylor County.

Special awards were also handed out, with Chapter of the Year going to Taylor County High School, Rookie of the Year going to River Ridge Elementary School and the Membership Award going to Green County Middle School. Board Member of the Year, Member of the Year and the prestigious KJHS Achievement Award went to Jack Gupton, Sidney England and Russell DeSpain, respectively. Beth Dunn, the Shelby Saddlebreds co-sponsor, was named Sponsor of the Year.

Many changes have taken place this past year, but all for the better of our society. Hopefully these changes will bring even more participation among schools. See you May 7-8 at the new Kentucky Junior Historians Conference!





## History Happenings

### KJHS Members Place 11th in Annual Statewide Photo-Essay Contest

Kentucky Junior Historical Society (KJHS) members Mason Miller, a Harlan Independent fourth grader, and Hannah Wilson, an eighth grader at Lebanon Middle School, were recognized at the 31st annual Ida Lee Willis Preservation Awards on May 20 in the Capitol Rotunda.

Both Mason and Hannah received honors in the statewide photo-essay competition, "Preserving the Spirit of Home." Hannah received first place in the middle school division with her work entitled, "The Beeler Home Place," and Mason placed second in the elementary school division with his entry entitled, "Harlan County Courthouse." Hannah and Mason were also runners-up in their respective divisions in the KJHS Abraham Lincoln Essay Contest held earlier this year.

Sponsored by the Kentucky Heritage Council and Preservation Kentucky Inc., the contest asked students to select a site in their community and reflect on its sense of place and the effect that its loss would have on them and their community. Students were also required to submit a copy of their essay to at least one local decision-maker (mayor, city council member, judge, etc.). Among other prizes, contest recipients received a one-year membership to KJHS.

## Meet the 2009-2010 KJHS Executive Committee!

Read more about some of the Kentucky Junior Historical Society (KJHS) board members who will be serving you this year.



### Ariel Young, President

Ariel Young is a senior at Metcalfe County High School and has served on the KJHS executive board for four years. She states, "I'm very active in my local FFA chapter as well as KJHS. I am so excited about the upcoming year and look forward to working with each and every one of you. My plans are to raise membership statistics as well as attendance at the Kentucky Junior Historians Conference. I encourage you all to get active; it's going to be a great year!"



### Daniel Beams, Reporter

As reporter, Daniel plans to "re-establish communication between members of the Kentucky Junior Historical Society by updating the MySpace and Facebook sites, and... serve the club to the best of my abilities." He is a senior at Taylor County High School and is involved in a variety of extracurricular activities. He says, "I am very active in my church youth group. Music is also a huge part of my life. I am involved in my school's band program, both marching and concert band. I have a great family and amazing friends."



### Ben Fitzgerald, Membership Director

"I joined KJHS as a fourth grader, and I have really enjoyed learning about this beautiful state that we live in," says Ben, a sixth grader at Green County Middle School. "I feel privileged to have been elected Membership Director, and in this role I plan to share my experiences with the club and encourage students to join."



### Rachel Mullins

In her role as junior representative, Rachel Mullins intends to work on plans for convention and get students everywhere excited about Kentucky history. She stays busy with KJHS and a host of other activities. She states, "I really enjoy being in KJHS. Along with being a KJHS member, I play volleyball and I am a clogger. Sometimes, I sing with the Heritage Hoedowners. I love animals and creating things. I am really excited about being a KJHS officer!"



## KJHS Executive Committee

**President**  
Ariel Young  
Metcalfe County High School

**Vice President**  
Ashley Skaggs  
Metcalfe County High School

**Parliamentarian**  
Vacant

**Secretary**  
Vacant

**Historian**  
Carrie Wolfe  
Green County High School

**Reporter**  
Daniel Beams  
Taylor County High School

**Membership Director**  
Ben Fitzgerald  
Green County Middle School

**Junior Representative**  
Rachel Mullins  
East Carter Middle School

**District 2 Representative**  
Jack Gupton  
Green County Middle School

**District 4 Representative**  
Hannah Bradford  
East Carter High School

## New Kentucky Junior Historians Conference to be Held May 7-8 in Frankfort

Students have been traveling to Frankfort for annual Kentucky Junior Historical Society (KJHS) conventions since 1990, and we are already gearing up to do it all again in 2010!

KJHS is joining forces with Kentucky's National History Day (KNHD) for the Kentucky Junior Historians Conference. The conference will be held May 7-8, 2010 and will consist of History Bowl, election of officers to the KJHS executive committee, tours and activities, workshops and the KNHD project competition.

All the usual convention activities will take place, as well as some new ones.





# FAMILY HISTORY FUN

Do you ever wonder how your family ended up in Kentucky? Where they came from? What they experienced? Fall is the perfect time to begin compiling an extensive record of your family's history by creating a family history trunk!

Reconnect with relatives, sharpen your research skills and learn more about your own heritage. Some things to include are:

- An ancestral chart or family tree
- A map that details your forebears' migration across the state, country and/or world!
- Oral history interviews
  - Record the experiences of older and younger generations and discuss the evolution of family traditions
  - Acquire stories about relatives, such as great and great-great grandparents, that have long been deceased. Ask your grandparents what their grandparents were like!
- Government records—copies of old marriage, birth and death certificates, land deeds, census records and other significant documents that help tell your family's story
- Photographs
  - Take photos of homes, burial sites and other places significant to your family
  - Ask extended relatives for photographs of themselves at various ages, as well as photos that they have of members of the generation(s) that preceded them.
- Artifacts, such as family heirlooms and other items that were a part of the material culture of each generation on your family tree
- A newspaper article that dates from the year each member on your family tree was born
  - Try and get a clipping (or copy) from a newspaper in the city or region in which they were born
- Family recipes
- Samples of family music, art and dance traditions
- Language books that reflect the diverse dialects of your forebears

Once you have gathered the items for your trunk, create a DVD documentary that shapes the images, artifacts, documents and stories into a cohesive narrative. Place one copy in your trunk, and send the rest to relatives!

**kentucky  
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*Kentucky*  
UNBROKEN SPIRIT

KJHS is a program administered by the **Kentucky Historical Society**, an agency of the Kentucky Tourism, Arts & Heritage Cabinet.