

students of Jackson Purchase history or the history of the Civil War. While aspects of Forrest's life and career are controversial, few can deny he was an effective cavalry commander and caused a great deal of disruption in the larger Jackson Purchase and beyond during the Civil War. Ed Bearss, long time Chief Historian of the National Park Service said many times. "Bedford Forrest could wreck a Railroad." Justice certainly illustrated that as well as many other aspects of Forrest's career. Among those in attendance was long-time Society member, past-president, and author of three books on Nathan Bedford Forrest, Dr. Lonnie Maness.

(William H. Mulligan, Jr.)

President's Report 2018-2019

I am happy to report that the Society had a highly successful year. In addition to holding six meetings and publishing our *Journal* we increased the amount of Jackson Purchase historical information we post on our Facebook page. If you have not liked our page go on Facebook and search for Jackson Purchase Historical Society. We had a very successful set of programs again. There are a lot of very good people working on Purchase history. The Board has authorized their nomination for a Kentucky Historical Society Award. We will also be nominating the 2018 *Journal*. Editor Jim Humphreys put together another outstanding issue. This is a good time to thank the Filson Historical Society in Louisville for allowing us to reprint the late Thomas Clark's article on the Jackson Purchase Treaty from their journal. Dr. Clark was a tireless scholar, advocate, and protector of the resources for Kentucky history. His article remains the standard account. There are other classic essays in Jackson Purchase history out there. I had thought to publish a collection of them for the bicentennial, but life intervened. Speaking of our *Journal*, our joint project with MSU Libraries is nearing completion. Thanks to Melissa Webb Earnest for maintaining the website and increasing its usefulness. Her work on that has been very much appreciated. She has asked me to see if we can find an assistant, possible successor. If interested let me know. One project that did not move ahead as fast as we had hoped was the Encyclopedia. We received a small number of submissions and are redesigning our recruitment plan. We hope to make more progress with the Encyclopedia in 2019-2020.

In July we reelected the slate of officers who had served in 2017-2018. They are listed elsewhere in this *Journal*. Your officers are all active people and devote a great deal of time to the Society. Through their efforts we spread the news of the work of the Jackson Purchase Historical Society. We did programs for a number of groups including the Ballard-Carlisle County Chamber of Commerce, the Warren Thomas Museum in Hickman, the Murray

Rotary Club, the Commonwealth Honors Academy at MSU, and the Mayfield Branch of the NAACP.

In November we sponsored a boat tour of Reelfoot Lake as part of our meeting there. The trip was a great success and something we should try again. We had a successful second, end-of-year appeal for financial support from our members. Thanks to all who contributed. These gifts allow us to do some things we might not be able to do with the *Journal*. We also had a separate campaign to underwrite the cost of our January meeting and were quite successful. Our program on Dr. Howard drew attendees from Indiana as well as our normal area and was subject of a follow up article in the *Murray Ledger-Times*. Authors who spoke at our meetings were honored for their books. This is an indication of the quality of our speakers and our programs. That is, of course, a tradition the Society has developed over the years.

In order to become eligible for a wider range of grants and other outside support, we applied for and received designation from the Internal Revenue Service as a 501 (c) 3 organization.

As the result of a suggestion following the Beitos' lecture on TRM Howard, a city council member from Murray suggested we should pursue a highway marker for Dr. Howard. After discussion the board decided to proceed with this. I have been recruiting a committee and talking it up with community groups and leaders both in Murray and elsewhere. We will launch this officially in late June due to other demands on the time of those involved. The more I learn about Dr. Howard the more convinced I am that this is deserved.

I want to thank all those who hosted our meetings: the Hotel Metropolitan in Paducah; the Benton Branch, Marshall County Public Library; the Wrather Museum, Murray State University; the Purchase Area Development District in Mayfield; the Hickman County Historical and Genealogical Society in Clinton; Reelfoot Lake State Park in Tiptonville, Tennessee ~ special thanks for keeping the tour boat in the water an extra two weeks to allow our tour.

In July 2019 we will hold elections and begin another year of programs. We will be meeting in Benton, Paducah, and Martin in 2019. Planning for 2020 has begun - but if you have a program you would like to present, please let me know. Our Journal will appear again - or you won't be reading this☺. Our mission to make the history of the Jackson Purchase available to the public continues. Thanks for your support and please stay with us, the job continues and we need you. Share the Jackson Purchase Historical Society with a friend!

Thanks for your support – see you at the meetings.

Bill Mulligan

President

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Subjects of our 2018-2019 Meeting