



June/July
2019



A Newsletter for the Friends & Volunteers of Col. Benjamin Stephenson House

The Spectator



Recent Happenings....

Spring School Tours

School tour season was in full swing during April and May. Unfortunately the weather did not cooperate and several schools had to cancel due to inclement weather. We had approximately 700 students, parents, and teachers visit this spring.



We Got Music, Beer, & BBQ!

Ben's Bluegrass, BBQ, & Beer Bash

The 1820 Benjamin Stephenson House is hosting its annual "Ben's Bash". This year we have decided to use this celebratory event to kick off the summer! Come and join us for this spectacular day outdoors at our beautiful historic home. We will be hosting this event on Saturday June 22, 2019 from 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm. With your ticket you get entrance into the event, and WE will transport you to a day filled with music, laughter, and good times. Additionally, you will receive a plate of food and a beverage of your choice (for adults this can include and alcoholic beverage or non-alcoholic beverage). For the little ones, they too will receive a hot dog, bag of chips, and a drink of their choice.

Adult Ticket Price: \$20.00
Children's Ticket Price: \$10.00
(3-12 years old)
Children under the age of 3 are FREE!

*Additional food and drinks may be purchased on site. Sorry everyone



Unfortunately, we do not have any vegetarian/vegan options at this event.

Entertainment and Drinks

On the day of the event we will have activities for all ages. On the patio come and listen to our live Blue Grass band. Here you can hear the fabulous Keith Dudding & The Mountain River Valley Boys. The patio will offer seating where you can dine on locally made BBQ and imbibe on a cool refreshment. If the patio is too fancy, you can always set up camp on the lawn

(Continued on page 2)

SAVE THE DATE



Ben's Bash



KICK OFF THE SUMMER EVENT

Saturday June 22, 2019

From 4PM TO 8PM

SHINDIG AT

1820 Col. Benjamin Stephenson House
409 S. Buchanan St., Edwardsville, Illinois

Join us rain or shine!

For more information and to purchase tickets go to:

<https://stephensonhouse.org/bens-bash>

TICKETS

On Sale Now Until June 15

Adult \$20
Child \$10
(3-12 years)

Ben's Bash. (Continued from page 1)

and relax and enjoy your meal.

What About the Kids?

We encourage everyone to bring the entire family. Included in the children's ticket we will have a 50-foot bounce house obstacle course where they can run themselves ragged. Once they have expended all of their energy, they can purchase a snow cone to help cool down and recharge their batteries. The lawn will offer open seating so bring your blanket and your lawn chairs to take in the rustic atmosphere.

The Fun Does Not Stop ... What About the Adults?

You are asking yourself, how could there possibly be more? Included in the adult ticket, we will have 7 different stations where you can play cornhole/bags. Challenge a friend, another couple, or complete stranger to this game of skill and a little luck. There will also be other yard games for individuals to play such as yard Yahtzee and yard Jenga.

Spread the Word and Buy Your Tickets

We have consulted various archaic forms of weather predictors and we are hoping for a beautiful summer day. Regardless, rain or shine the bash will be enriching Edwardsville as it has been doing for years! With that ... **BUY YOUR TICKETS NOW.** Save the date and do not forget to bring your friends and family! Tickets are for sale now until June 15 and can be purchased online or in the gift shop. Remember all the proceeds go to keeping the history and the Benjamin Stephenson house alive!

Sorry, but the **Stephenson House will not be open for tours June 22.** We will be preparing for the event all day. We love for you to come back and visit us on a day when we can spend time sharing the history of the house.



New to the House

A Period Bobbin Lace Pillow

Fiber artist Mark Myers recently refurbished a bobbin lace pillow donated to the house many years ago. The pillow was very modern and not suitable for display. Mark researched the type of pillow that Lucy could have used, based on her family heritage, then transformed our modern pillow into a period appropriate example. It is currently on display in the upper hall with plenty of light for someone to work on as time allows. Thank you Mark!





Needful Things

We are seeking donations for the following items. If you can provide an item to the cause, please let us know.

- Seamstresses/tailors to sew men's shortcoats, trousers, and ladies' day caps, shifts, and dresses for the interpretive wardrobe (we'll provide the patterns and fabric)
- A Sunday afternoon gift shop docent
- Flour for use in the kitchen with upcoming school tours
- A Friday morning gift shop docent
- Firewood
- A Saturday afternoon gift shop docent
- Bolt of 100% cotton batiste

Upcoming Events

June 12-14, **Digging in the Dirt** (summer camp), 9 am-2 pm

June 15, **Painting a Summertime Past**, 10 am-4 pm

June 22, **Ben's Bash**, 4-8 pm

June 26-28, **Mrs. Lucy's Academy for Young Ladies** (summer camp), 9 am-2 pm

July 17-19, **Mrs. Lucy's Secondary Academy** (summer camp), 9 am-3 pm

August 8, **Municipal Band Concert Concessions**, 7pm (volunteers, pies, cookies, brownies needed)

August 10, **Trades Day**, 9 am-4 pm

August 31, **Wizards 5K Run & 1-Mile Walk**, 8 am

October 3-31, **Mourning Col. Stephenson**

October 6, **50/50 Antique Auction**, 9 am

October 27, **A Gothic Evening with Edgar Allan Poe**

November 29 & 30, **Christmas Candlelight Tours**, 6-9 pm

December 7, **A Spirited Holiday Past**, 10 am-4 pm

December 8, **A Christmas Carol**

For more detailed information on each event, visit our new website at <https://stephensonhouse.org/events>

TOP FINISHERS RECEIVE A WAND & 5K MEDAL

***** T-SHIRT WITH EVERY ENTRY *****

STEPHENSON HOUSE 1820

5K RUN **WIZARDS RUN** **1 MILE WALK**

I Solemnly Swear that I will finish this race

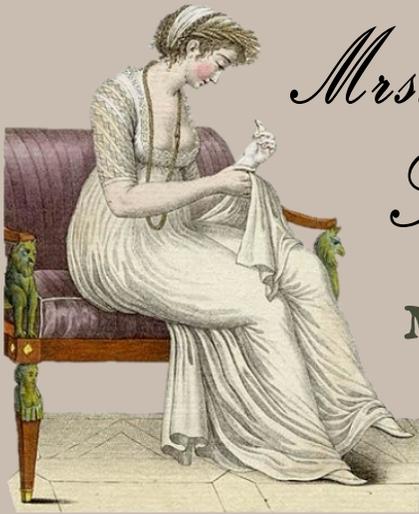
Where: Edwardsville Township Park
When: August 31, 2019
Time: Race begins at 8 AM
Cost: \$35

Registration ends on July 31, 2019
 Sign-up and more information at www.stephensonhouse.org

It Was A Roaring Goodtime

This year's trivia night was the best one yet! The theme for the event was a 1920s speakeasy and many of our teams dressed the part. The event raised over \$12,000 for Stephenson House. Thank you to everyone who came out to participate, support or volunteer their time.





Mrs. Lucy's Sewing Table

Make a Period Reticule

The following instructions were originally published in "The American Girls Book" by Miss Eliza Leslie, 1857



A BASKET RETICULE.

Get a small open-work basket of a circular form, and without handles. Then take a piece of silk about a quarter and half-quarter in depth, and make it into a square bag, leaving it open at the bottom as well as at the top. Gather or plait the bottom of the silk, and put ting it down into the basket, sew it all round to the basket-bottom. The silk will thus form a lining for the open sides of the basket. Run a case for a ribbon round the top of the bag.



A POCKET-BOOK RETICULE.

These reticules are frequently made of white hair cloth, and embroidered with floss silk ; but as these materials may not be conveniently procured, we will recommend thick gros-de-nap, lined with stiff linen, muslin, or buckram. Half a yard of silk will be sufficient. Cut it into the shape of a large pocket-book, and cord the sides and round the flap. Fasten down the flap with two small silk buttons, and a loop of narrow ribbon or galloon. The handles are made of two very stiff but slender rolls of gros-de-nap, cut bias, and filled as tight as possible with a roll of wadding. These handles must be very firm and hard, and sewed with great neatness. Put ribbon bows at the corners.

Help Us Cloth Our Men!

New Short Coats Needed



We are in desperate need of seamstresses/tailors to sew men's shortcoats for our volunteer wardrobe. In an effort to encourage new volunteers, we offer the use of a house wardrobe until new recruits decide they want to obtain their own garb.

Currently, we have one summer weight short coat available to use and its a small size (pictured above). Dottie Vaughn donated the short coat to the site several year ago, and it's seen lots of use.

This type of coat is fairly simple to make and doesn't need to be fitted. We'd need some in summer weight fabric in a variety of sizes. The site will provide the pattern and fabric to anyone willing to sew a new one for the wardrobe. The site also accepts used period clothing (1790-1825) too.

Contact RoxAnn to offer your needle skills.

Phone: 618-692-1818

Email: stephensonhouse@sbcglobal.net

Historic Saint Louis Presents

Painting a Summertime Past



All gardening is landscape painting

**Saturday, June 15, 2019
10am to 4pm**

Join us for a glorious tour that will paint a picture of summertime past. Whether a picturesque garden, herb garden, or something in between, visitors will experience a day reflecting Saint Louis' colorful history. Create your own tour utilizing the Historic Saint Louis website and brochure as your guide. Discover connections between the sites and people who once inhabited them as you travel back in time to Saint Louis of yesteryear. You never know what you will discover as each location prepares their own unique entertainment.

Visit www.historicsaintlouis.org for more information

Participating Sites

Bellefontaine Cemetery & Arboretum - Benjamin Stephenson House - Campbell House Museum - Carondelet Historical Society Museum - Chatillon-DeMenil Mansion - Field House Museum - First Missouri State Capitol State Historic Site - Gittemeier House - Guibourd-Valle House - Hanley House - Historic Daniel Boone Home - Historic Sappington House - John B. Myers House - Mudd's Grove - Oakland House - Old Courthouse - Old St. Ferdinand Shrine - Overland Log House - Sutter-Meyer Farmhouse - Taille de Noyer House - Tappmeyer Homestead - Thornhill Governor's Mansion at Faust Park - Ulysses S. Grant National Historic Site - Willoughby Heritage Farm & D.D. Collins House



We Want YOU!

for the Tuesday

Morning Crew

New recruits are being sought to help each Tuesday morning at the Stephenson House. The crew cleans, polishes, mops, scrubs, dusts, and does small maintenance jobs to keep the house in prime condition. Members meet at 8 am and work until around 10 am (or whenever the coffee is done). If you are interested, please contact the house director or Sid Denny.

VOLUNTEER FIELD TRIP

July 24, 9 am

Join us on a field trip to the Boone Home in Defiance, Mo. We will carpool from Stephenson House and then enjoy a relaxing day playing tourists. After our tour, we can either picnic at the site or eat at a local restaurant. Let RoxAnn or Jeffrey know if you plan to go. Admission fees are \$8 for adults and \$5 for children.



A Day as Tourists

Campbell House and Field House Museum

Six members of Stephenson House's staff and volunteers took a field trip to STL May 15. They spent the day touring the Campbell House and the Field House Museum. Here are just a few of the photos from their excursion. It was a great opportunity to see how other house museums present the past.

Below and Right: Campbell House



Below and Bottom Right: Field House Museum



Be Our Friend...

Renew your membership or become a new Friend.
Fill out and mail the following information to us.

YES! I want to help. Enclosed is my contribution:

Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City, State & ZIP: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Amount Enclosed: _____ Membership Level: _____

_____ Please send me information about volunteering at Stephenson House.

Checks should be made payable to the:

Friends of the Col. Benjamin Stephenson House

Payments may also be made in our online store:

www.stephensonhouse.org

*Memberships are from January to December. Benefits of membership are extended to an individual and his/her immediate family. We accept cash, check or credit card donations. Memberships are extended for monetary donations only. The Friends of Col. Benjamin Stephenson House is a 501c3 not-for-profit organization FIN 37-1395804



Send your membership to the

**Friends of the Col. Benjamin
Stephenson House**

P.O. Box 754

Edwardsville, IL 62025



Membership Levels

Henry's Friend (child, K-12)
\$10

Friend of Ben & Lucy
\$25

Stephenson Family Friend
\$50

Landmark Friend
\$100

Heritage Friend
\$250

Living History Friend
\$500

Founding Friend
\$1,000 or more

Corporate membership information
available upon request.

Our Board of Directors & Staff

Paul Brazier, President

Nichol Allen, Vice President

Doug Piper, Treasurer

Debbie Rathert, Secretary

Elizabeth Edwards

Stephen Hansen

Jessica Mills

Steve Mudge

Kathleen Schmidt

Janet Stack

Jason Stacy

RoxAnn Raisner, Site Director

Jeffrey Edison, Assistant Director

Phil Stack, Bookkeeper



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