Conference Center opens with dedication ceremony

The Hickman Creek Nature and Conference Center on Sugar Creek Pike was officially opened and dedicated on December 22, 2003. The 122-acre property, which was purchased a year ago from the Ludwig family, includes the Aline Ludwig Meeting House. The meeting house is named for Aline Poole Ludwig, a retired clinical social worker who lived on the property with her husband, Dr. Arnold M. Ludwig, before she died in April at age 68.

The assembled crowd was addressed by local and regional dignitaries (see accompanying story in right column) and by Dr. Ludwig, who gave a moving account of his wife’s love of history and her desire for the property to continue to be enjoyed by others.

The facility is available to host social, educational, and recreational functions of up to 75 people. For renting information see page 4 or call the Camp Nelson White House at 859-881-5716.

Judge honored for historic preservation

During the dedication of Aline Ludwig Meeting House at the Hickman Creek Nature & Conference Center, an award was presented to Judge Wm. Neal Cassity. The Ida Lee Willis Memorial Foundation Preservation Award was presented to Judge Cassity for his significant contributions to historic preservation. It was noted continued on back page.

David Morgan, Executive Director of the Kentucky Heritage Council, presented the award to County Judge Neal Cassity along with Senator Tom Buford and Rep. Bob Damron.

Camp Nelson Civil War Days • September 11-12, 2004
Celebrating the 140th Anniversary of Recruitment of Black Soldiers
Dear Camp Nelson,

Thanks for your help in locating the final resting place of my great, great, great grandfather Joseph Hall. I will have to visit the Camp Nelson Cemetery on my next visit back home. As you requested, here is a brief biography of what I know about Joseph Hall based on National Archives pension and other family records. Thanks again for the reply.

John W Smith III
2105 Foxcroft Circle
Denton TX 76209-7811

Joseph Hall was born c. 1814 at Dixon (or Dickson County), Tennessee. On July 20, 1834 at the age of twenty he married Phoebe Holland (born c. 1816) in Dixon (or Dickson County), Tennessee by Egbert Meadows a Baptist minister. To this marriage the following children were born:

Nancy Ann Hall Weber Kennedy .......................... May 26, 1835
Lovina Tennessee Hall Kennedy .......................... c. 1843 d. Dec. 20, 1863
Therman Hall .......................... c. 1837
Virmandis Faridell Hall .......................... June 24, 1839
Wesley Hall .......................... c. 1846
William Hall .......................... c. 1848
Prissy Albany Hall .......................... January 12, 1850
Omy Jane Hall .......................... July 31, 1852
Joseph Warren Andrew Johnson Hall .......................... September 2, 1855

The 1850 census shows him living in Humphreys County, Tennessee with his family.

On January 26, 1864 Joseph Hall enlisted in Company A, 11th Regiment, Kentucky Cavalry Volunteers commanded by Captain Charles Bachman. He enlisted as a corporal and mustered in with the company in Paducah on March 17, 1864. At the time of his enlistment he listed his vital statistics as 50 years of age, 5 feet 10 inches tall, fair complexion, blue eyes, dark hair and listed his occupation as farmer.

He died on June 18, 1864 of chronic diarrhea at Nelson General Hospital, Camp Nelson, Kentucky and was buried on June 18, 1864 in the Camp Nelson National Cemetery (plot AO 245)

Joseph Hall was my great, great, great grandfather. His daughter Lovina Tennessee Hall Kennedy was my great, great grandmother who married Samuel Kennedy. Upon her death Sam married her older sister, Nancy Ann Weber.

Submitted by John W. Smith III

Thank you, John, for your interesting letter and photo. For others out there that are interested in locating family buried in Camp Nelson National Cemetery, I recommend Interment.Net on the web.
http://www.interment.net

- Editor
Relatives of black Civil War soldiers sought for Camp Nelson September Event.

IN RECENT YEARS, THE CAMP Nelson Foundation has been holding two Civil War events – one in April, and another in September. But this year, the two events will be combined, according to Mary Kozak, county special projects director for the Camp Nelson Foundation. She explained that this will give them more time to locate relatives of the African American troops who trained at Camp Nelson. A special homecoming is being planned for families who had relatives who served at Camp Nelson, in recognition of the 140th anniversary of the recruitment of African American soldiers, Kozak said. “We think it’s important to commemorate this anniversary,” she said.

The event, to be held in September, will be called “Camp Nelson Civil War Days,” and will be held the weekend of Sept. 11-12. The event will consist of the activities of previous years’ Living History Weekend and the U.S. Colored Troops’ weekend. Events will include, re-enactors depicting the 12th United States Colored Heavy Artillery Regiment, a group of military re-enactors which was formed at Camp Nelson. Other African American units will also participate, including women and children depicting life at the Camp Nelson Civil War Army Depot and Refugee Camp.

During the Civil War, eight U.S. Colored Troop regiments were organized at Camp Nelson, as well as two Calvary, two heavy artillery (including the original 12th, and four infantry.)

(The reformed 12th US Colored Heavy Artillery.

Camp was the third largest recruitment center for African American troops in the country during the Civil War. The 525-acre Camp Nelson Heritage Park is the original site of the 1863-1866 Civil War camp, which enlisted and trained more than 10,000 African-American men for the Union Army and provided refuge for their families.)

Kozak said the coming year’s event will include most of last year’s activities, plus some new things. “As always, we will do our best to keep it authentic,” she said.

Families who wish to commemorate a relative who was stationed at Camp Nelson may contact Jim Hunn at 859-236-9710 or Kozak at 859-492-3115.

IN BRIEF

Camp Nelson Civil War Heritage Park presents a Living History Educational Field Day for 4th and 5th grade students in Jessamine County on Friday, May 7, 2004 from 9:20 a.m. - 1:50 p.m. For information call Kathy Clark at 859-858-3343

The reformd 12th US Colored Heavy Artillery.

Thanks to the Jessamine Journal for some content used in this newsletter.

Camp Nelson Events Calendar

Central Kentucky Civil War Tour (6 sites) ........................................... July 20, 2004
Camp Nelson 5K Run ........................................................................... July 2004
Memorial Day Commemoration at Camp Nelson Cemetery .... May 31, 2004
Camp Nelson Civil War Days ......................................................... September 11-12, 2004
Willis Award from front page
that Judge Cassity supported many projects over the years which have led to improved quality of life in Jessamine County along with preserving our past for future generations. David Morgan, Executive Director of the Kentucky Heritage Council, presented the award along with Senator Tom Buford and Rep. Bob Damron. Mr. Morgan noted that “Judge Cassity is a true friend of historic preservation who has determinedly and diligently worked at preserving historic structures and places throughout Jessamine County since he took office.” Some of those places include the Old Jail, Camp Nelson, High Bridge Park, Valley View Ferry, Keene Lodge, Kentucky River with the Palisades, and cemetery preservation. Judge Cassity’s commitment to downtown revitalization is evidenced by the restoration of the courthouse and four other buildings within the Nicholasville downtown district. This restoration has provided the needed impetus for other restoration efforts in the downtown. Through his leadership the Fiscal Court provides funding assistance to both Nicholasville and Wilmore downtown revitalization programs. The award application noted that “Judge Cassity is a superlative leader not only in the historic preservation field but in all areas for which he is responsible. He leads by his actions and has the ability to motivate and energize individuals to successfully complete projects.”

Rental of Aline Ludwig Meeting House (log house)
Weekdays – $100; Weekends (including Friday after 4pm) – $150; Non-profit and Governmental support agencies – $50; Refundable deposit: $100.

For reservations call the Camp Nelson Civil War Heritage Park at 859-881-5716

JOIN UP!
Camp Nelson Foundation
A CALL TO PRESERVATION AND RESTORATION!

Members receive the quarterly publication, The Camp Nelson Dispatch. Because the Camp Nelson Restoration and Preservation Foundation is a not-for-profit organization, all donations are tax-deductible and will go 100% toward restoration and preservation. Memberships purchased as indicated below will be recognized on a permanent plaque at Camp Nelson.

- Membership Dues for 2004 – $25.00
- Stars & Bars Lifetime Membership
  - $500 per individual
  - $650 per individual & spouse
  - $650 per business
- Friends of Camp Nelson
  - $100 per individual
  - $150 per individual & spouse
  - $150 per business

Name ______________________________________________________
Street ______________________________________________________
City/State/Zip ______________________________________________
Phone ______________________ Email ____________________________
Send to: Camp Nelson Foundation
P.O. Box 1170
Nicholasville, KY 40356