



Meade County Archeological Society Newsletter

February 2010, Issue 24

January Happenings: We met at the library annex on January 4th for a fascinating presentation on the Civil War guerrilla raiders. Gerry Fischer talked about little-known stories of such men as Edwin Terrell and Sue Munday. They were some mean dudes! Steve Straney packed a whole slew of side-arms and rifles and told about how these men used them to face down their enemies.



Old photos of guerillas



Gerry Fischer tells some tall tales



Steve Straney discusses firearms

NEXT MEETING: February 6, Saturday, 11:00-4:00

PLACE: Meade County Library Annex

Program: Our annual open house/birthday party will take the place of our usual first Monday meeting. There will be speakers throughout the afternoon, starting at noon with Richard Lawson, followed by Dr. Fred Coy and Rick Brown, and Andy Woolfolk. There will be an opportunity for you to bring any finds and possible artifacts for identification by our knowledgeable members. We'll have refreshments, including pizza and popcorn, and lots of time for visiting and perusing displays of local archeological finds, Civil War memorabilia, and genealogy information. Don't miss the fun!

Upcoming Program at the Falls of the Ohio Interpretive Center:

February 27 *Good Water Good Roads: The Life of Verne Spratt*

This is a JoLe Productions film by Lee and Joy Pennington.

Born and raised in West Virginia, and having lived more than fifty years in Menifee County, Kentucky, Verne Spratt led a remarkable life. He once grubbed with a mattock seven acres of hillside land to farm. He worked thirty-one years in the coalmines where he escaped a slate fall, a major buggy accident which broke his back. After he got black lung, he sought some peace and quiet in the hills of Eastern Kentucky. Married to Ida Mae, the "prettiest girl" he ever saw, for more than fifty years, the couple first lived in a log cabin when they moved to Kentucky, and then built a brick home on Clifton Creek where they were always "blessed with good water."

On moving to Kentucky, the Spratts began a quest for John Swift's Lost Silver Mine and found on their thousand-acre property all the signs listed in Swift's diary. In their search they discovered many beautiful and mysterious rock houses, petroglyphs, and natural wonders that few people know

anything about. They also discovered major archaeology sites—stone walls, rock mounds, and long serpentine walls. Their land may well contain the longest stone snake effigy in the world! People who visit the sites often respond with "this is a lost city."

A storyteller incarnate, Verne Spratt told tales with a voice that carries the full richness of mountain speech, and what stories he had to tell. There are tales of getting kicked in the head by a mule, of a dog burying a pone of bread that a tiller digs up the next spring and everybody thinks the pone is a stone, and of Mr. Spratt spending two years of his schooling in a garbage dump.

Shot over a three-year period and edited from more than twenty-five hours of raw footage, *Good Water Good Roads: The Life of Verne Spratt* captures the life of this unique man and the equally unique place where he lived.

News And Notes

Note from Our President: We are considering putting together a local road trip some Saturday in the early Spring to visit some sites in Meade County of historical interest. This could include lunch at a local restaurant where we'll have a chance to socialize and toss around some ideas for future projects and programs. We'll have a sign-up sheet at the open house to gage how much interest there would be in this idea. We are always open to new ideas for improving our society, so please feel free to make suggestions!