

James Harrod Trust

P.O. 158, Harrodsburg, KY 40330

December 19, 2009

CONTACT: Rosalind Turner
859-948-7907

The Herald Is Printing Book

James Harrod Trust's 'Women Of Mercer County' Will Be Available In January

HARRODSBURG –After more than two years, “The Women of Mercer County” is at the printers and will be available for purchase in January.

“The Women of Mercer County” features stories detailing the lives of approximately 128 women. Family members, friends and neighbors wrote the stories in the 264-page James Harrod Trust book. The authors shared these stories to honor and immortalize a special woman in their lives.

“This book is a true treasure,” said Rosalind Turner, book editor and JHT board member. “Not only are the lives of these women remembered, but their joys, struggles and contributions to their families, friends, neighbors and community of Mercer County are documented. The stories are a celebration of the lives of these women and a legacy to their descendants.

"Page after page, the book features fascinating stories that include the traditions and culture of Mercer County as well as photos of the women and the places they lived," she added. "Many of the stories reveal a way of life that so many will remember."

The book is dedicated to Frances Board Keightley Moseley.

“Frances was a true inspiration to anyone interested in preserving history,” said Turner. “She dedicated much of her life to documenting and researching Mercer County, the people and the structures. She would have been one of the first to purchase a copy of the book and would have recognized that it is a wonderful tribute to some of Mercer County’s women.”

Mercer County native Lois Mateus Peters, a long-time supporter of James Harrod Trust, wrote the dedication.

“This book will be treasured not only by the families, but anyone who enjoys looking back or remembering the past,” said Turner.

Carolyn Crump, a member of the “Women of Mercer County” Committee and a JHT board member, said the book contains wonderful stories and photographs. “I am not a native of Mercer County, but I enjoy the stories. Each one shares a perspective of life in Mercer County from another time.”

Turner concurs with Crump, adding that each story is a gem in itself.

“This idea developed after I saw copies of similar books published by the Owsley County Historical Society. Even though I have been gone from Owsley County for many years, I still enjoyed reading the stories about some of the women who are already gone, but who left their mark in Owsley County. Some of the women I knew and some I had heard of, but most were just wonderful stories that gave me a glimpse of another time in history as lived by women like my grandmother.”

The Owsley County historical society has successfully published books on veterans, women and men. Will James Harrod Trust be publishing future books? Turner would not say. She did admit that she learned a lot and made a lot of mistakes in compiling this book, but thinks the outcome was well worth it. She said she hopes that all those who contributed and all those who buy the book will enjoy it as much as she did.

Turner said she is regretful the book is not available for Christmas, but noted that technology – though a wonderful thing – is not always perfect. In August, Turner said she was just days away from taking the book to *The Harrodsburg Herald* to have it printed when the flash drive she was storing data on malfunctioned. Months of work was lost. After crying for a few weeks, she said she dug her heels in again and put the book back together.

“I was fortunate,” she said. “I lost most of the finished pages, but I still had all the stories and unedited photos on another flash drive. It was disheartening, but the end result is very satisfying.”

As soon as the book is available for purchase, it will be announced in *The Herald*. A newsletter in early January also will be sent to JHT members.

The book will be available at *The Herald*, Beaumont Inn and Jerry Sampson’s Books and Antiques. Other locations will be announced at a later date.

JHT is printing 400 copies of the book.

-30-

Story by Rosalind Turner

Published in *The Harrodsburg Herald*/December 24, 2009