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It is the mission of the
Weatherby Lake Historical
Committee
to identify, collect, display and
preserve artifacts and materials of
significance to the history of
Weatherby Lake.

Weatherby Lake Historical Committee
Mission Statement

2012 COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Kristy Lawrence, President
Norm Runyon, Vice-President
Marianne Ennett, Treasurer
Charlene DeJong, Secretary
Neil Brown
Nancy Sokol
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Then and Now: Looking Back 75 Years

On June 24, 1938, an article in “the Platte County Gazette” noted that “into the picture came another man, Glenn C. Weatherby, attorney and horseman. Mr. Weatherby attributes his coming to the area’s natural beautiful setting to his son, Fritz, and remarked, ”I was immediately impressed with what I saw and decided at once to put in a dam that would be large enough to provide water for domestic purposes, and at the same time, give property owners a place to fish, swim, and boat.



Preparations for the construction of a lake on the lands owned by early Platte County developers Ernie Thompson and Bill Workman began in the early thirties. In the spring of 1936, Glenn, Lucy and their son, Fritz Weatherby made 14 land purchases in Rush Creek Valley between February and the first of May. Weatherby and Ernest C. Thompson began construction of the dam before May 1, 1936. Men with horse drawn wagons cut brush, scooped dirt, and cleared the land in

preparation. Botts Construction of Independence, Missouri, was contracted to build the dam during the spring and summer of 1936. People were swimming and boating at Weatherby Lake, then called “Weatherby Estates”, by the spring of 1937, although the water was not yet up to Venita and the dam not yet finished. By June of 1943, lake waters ran over the spillway for the first time, and the lake was full.

(Adapted from *The Chronicles of Weatherby Lake*)

Making an Entrance

In 2008, the WLHC spearheaded the City effort to replace the entrance monuments. With the impending Barry Road construction, the time was right to create a beautiful, new threshold to our community that would enhance the city and welcome visitors. New monuments are now

complete on Eastside Drive at City Hall and Barry Road, Forest, and Hillside, with four more to build in the next phase. The project is being funded by donations from residents. Please help with your contribution to the Weatherby Lake Entrance Project.



Entrance monument circa 1980. Visit the WLHC Archives for more photos.



Cemetery Restoration Goal Fulfilled



The Anders Jacks Cemetery is the second oldest cemetery in Platte County and it is believed to contain about 100 graves. The people buried there were part of the Anders and Jacks families who came from Kentucky and set up their homesteads in what is now Weatherby Lake. The continuing restoration goal of the WL Historical Committee has been to identify the graves and permanently mark them in a manner fitting to the character and period of the cemetery, which extends from 1840 – 1905. To identify the locations of unmarked graves, the Historical Committee contracted with Mark DeSchepper of Construction Solutions to perform a Ground Penetrating Radar scan of the cemetery on November 11, 2011. He then processed the data on computer and created a chart and report showing the results.

On April 12, 2012, Platte County historian Shirley Kimsey, dowsed the cemetery to confirm the results of the scan and help substantiate the gravesites as precisely as possible. Ms. Kimsey is often called upon to use her experience with divining rods to locate burial sites around the



country and has performed these skills several times at the Anders Jacks Cemetery. This information gave us the best possible assessment of burial locations.

Then, on Saturday, April 21, Weatherby resident James Cookinham led an extraordinary effort to fulfill his Eagle Scout Leadership Service Project to benefit the Anders Jacks Cemetery and permanently mark 89 graves with native fieldstone markers by pouring concrete around each marker to stabilize them and provide for more convenient mowing and maintenance. Each concrete base was then stamped with a number to correspond to a map of the cemetery for the WLHC archives. James performed the planning, budgeting, purchasing, and execution of the project with nine members of the Eagle Scout Project team and WLHC members participating. Continuing the Scouting tradition, James was supported by his father, John Cookinham IV, who also completed his Eagle Scout Project at Weatherby Lake, and his grandfather, John Cookinham III, a Life Scout.

Future restoration efforts include continuing research of those buried in the cemetery. Descendants of the Anders and Jacks families still visit there and are very appreciative of the preservation and maintenance that has been done. We invite residents to stroll up Cemetery Lane, off Eastside Drive, and enjoy this historic jewel of Weatherby Lake.



GOOD READING!

The Historical Committee has published a collection of stories, photographs, and data depicting the history of Weatherby Lake from 1936 to 1997 in a beautifully bound, hardcover book. **The Chronicles of Weatherby Lake** makes a great gift for yourself, a new neighbor or anyone. Available for \$45 at City Hall or call 816-741-5545.

Tell a Story Program

Do you have a story about Weatherby Lake that we should know about? We would love to hear from you! History happens every day and we want your stories to become part of our archives through our “Tell a Story” program.

If you have a special memory of Weatherby Lake you’d like to share, call us or email. We’ll be happy to help you. Send your stories, history, and artifacts to Kristy Lawrence at kblawrence@comcast.net or call 816-741-9929.

