Jackson Brigade Webmaster's Report
By Dr. Daniel C. Hyde
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The technological marvel for sharing information called the World-Wide Web, or just "the Web," was started in 1994. A few years later in early August 1997, Jackson Brigade member Dan Hyde agreed to create a website for the Jackson Brigade. After the initial construction of the website in August 1997, Dan actively solicited material from Jackson Brigade members and placed their material on the website. Over the last seventeen years, many people, notably Nancy Ann Jackson and Linda Brake Meyers, have submitted large amounts of material for inclusion on the website. On August 1, 2012, the website had 1105 web pages and 1785 images for a total of 2794 files. More material has been added since the 2012 inventory. The Jackson Brigade's website is fairly popular. The website averages about 30 different visitors each day. Clearly the website is a valuable resource.

Dan added an automated on-line queries feature to the Jackson Brigade's website on September 6, 1997. On August 1, 2012, we had 618 on-line queries (not counting a lot of deleted "junk" queries). When a person submits an on-line query, an email message with the text of the query is automatically sent to Dan. He then filters out any junk queries and, by way of email, forwards good queries to the Jackson Brigade Board members. Therefore, many individuals who have submitted an on-line query will receive a high quality response from one of the Board members in a matter of hours. Such responsiveness has gained the organization a lot of respect and good will.

Since 1997, the Jackson Brigade website had been maintained in Dan's faculty account at Bucknell University. Since Dan will be retiring in a year or two, he felt it was best to move the website's materials off the University's web server to a new home. With the impending move, Dan decided it was a good time to completely reorganize and modernize the website. With approval of the Jackson Brigade Board in April 2013, Dan moved a bulk of the website materials to a commercial website hosting service (Bluehost) and completely redesigned the website's organization and look using a modern web software system (WordPress). At the same time, we acquired a new Internet domain name: www.JacksonBrigade.com. This new Internet name is a lot easier to remember and better represents the Jackson Brigade organization. After a period of development and testing by Dan and other Jackson Brigade Board members, the new website was officially announced to the membership on June 6, 2013. Since April 13, 2013, we have had over 4600 visitors to the new website.

The new website's administration software is much easier to learn and use. It allows any authorized person to add or alter content with minimal training. The old website organization required one to be an expert in html and other computer technologies to add or alter content. Jackson Brigade Board member Lee Jackson has been trained to aid Dan in administrating the new website.

The future of the Jackson Brigade website is bright. More material is submitted almost every day. Visit the new Jackson Brigade website at:

www.JacksonBrigade.com