

Celebrating 27 years of the Jackson Brigade Corporation



by Dan Hyde, President

Presented at Jackson Brigade Reunion, Horner, WV on August 3, 2018

The Beginning

- 1989 Linda Meyer's first trip to WV was to attend a Crislip reunion in Buckhannon, WV.



- Late 1980s Nancy Jackson and brother Jake were researching John Jackson Jr., son of John and Elizabeth (Cummins) Jackson.
- After her WV trip, Linda submitted a query to HCPD newsletter seeking descendants of Colonel Edward Jackson.
- Nancy answered Linda's query.
- In late 1989, their search for Jackson family history began, and a lasting friendship developed between distant cousins.

The Beginning, part 2

- Early in 1990s Linda would stay at Nancy's house while they did research in the Clarksburg, WV area.
- Nancy would research her line of John, Jr. While Linda worked on her line of Colonel Edward Jackson and Brakes.
- They discovered they were gathering info on all eight lines of the children of John and Elizabeth Jackson.
- Nancy had the idea, "Why not form an association for all the descendants of John and Elizabeth Cummins Jackson?"

The Proposal

- August 17, 1991 at the Julia Viola Hall Reunion at Valley Falls, near Fairmont, WV, Nancy proposed her idea for an association.
- The group voted to begin a Jackson association for descendants of John and Elizabeth (Cummins) Jackson.
- They elected Nancy - President, Tim Jackson – Secretary, Mary Lois Jackson – Treasurer. Jake Jackson agreed to be Editor.
- Once a month the new officers met to hash out details.
 - Decided on name as Jackson Brigade Corporation (JBC).
 - Nancy wrote Constitution and Bylaws based on HCPD Bylaws.
 - Decided to incorporate in WV.
- On March 24, 1992 JPC registered as a non-profit corp. in WV.

But Wait! It's in Nancy's Genes!

- While researching their Edward Jackson book and after JBC was formed, they discovered the minutes of an older Jackson Association.
- The Jackson Association met at Jackson's Mill for reunions from 1922-1941.
- Nancy discovered that her father was one of the Association's Presidents and she had attended a reunion at age two!
- Only fitting that Nancy and other members of her family would be instrumental in forming our present JBC.
- Besides Nancy, who else attended the older reunions?

JBC Activities in Last 27 Years

- 26 years of *Jackson Brigade Quarterly* – That's 103 issues!
- 18 Reunions 1991- 2018
- Over a dozen books published
- Jackson Brigade Website – started August 1997 – thousands of pages with valuable Jackson family history.
- Online Query System since September 1997
- Jackson DNA Project started in October 2011
- Tons of Jackson Family History research that resulted in articles for the Quarterly, material posted on the website, and material for reunions in form of presentations, tours, and posters.

That's an impressive list!!

Early JBC Reunions

Early JBC Reunions were a picnic at a pavilion in Nutter Fort or Jackson's Mill. They were "Bring a covered dish to pass" affairs. The descendants renewed family ties with fellowship and fun. Included were Business Meeting and Memorial Service.

		Chair	Attendance
1997	Clarksburg City Park, Nutter Fort	Nancy Jackson	
1996	Clarksburg City Park, Nutter Fort	Nancy Jackson	33
1995	Clarksburg City Park, Nutter Fort	Nancy Jackson	
1994	Clarksburg City Park, Nutter Fort	Nancy Jackson	
1993	Jackson's Mill, WV	Nancy Jackson	53
1992	Norwood Park in Nutter Fort, WV	Nancy Jackson	50
1991	Valley Falls, near Fairmont, WV	Nancy Jackson	35

1998 Reunion - Jackson Heritage Days

- 1998 Reunion was a special two-day event that celebrated the 250th anniversary of the immigration of John and Elizabeth (Cummins) Jackson to America in 1748.
- The Reunion Team requested proclamations for “Jackson Family Heritage Days” from Harrison, Lewis, and Upshur Counties.
- We had a banquet with speakers as well as the traditional picnic with Business Meeting and Memorial Service.
- A SAR grave marker was placed on John Jackson’s gravesite.
- We buried a Time Capsule in Pringle Tree Park to be opened in fifty years.

Changes to JBC Reunions

- In 1998 by a vote of the membership, reunions went from annually to every other year starting in 2000.
- The Board decided to have the next reunion and every other reunion to be held in a location that would be interesting to the JBC's membership. The alternating reunions would be held in the Jackson's Mill area.
- John C. Jackson agreed to hold the first "away reunion" in 2000 in conjunction with the west coast Jackson Reunion in North Plains, Oregon.
- Since 2000, the reunion chairs have decided to hold several day events with speakers, tours and banquet.

Reunions 2000-2018

Year	Place	<u>Chair(s)</u>	<u>Attendance</u>
2018	Jackson's Mill, WV	Dan Hyde & Joy DeFazio & Nancy Jackson	71
2016	Marietta, OH	Dan Hyde & Winnetta Kennedy	67
2014	Jackson's Mill, WV	Nancy Jackson	
2012	Lexington, VA	John M. Jackson & Jane Hilder	
2010	Clarksburg, Weston, Beverly	Nancy Jackson	
2008	Zanesville, OH	Jane Hilder & Dan Hyde	60
2006	Jackson's Mill, WV	Nancy Jackson	
2004	Parkersburg, WV	Ann Fissel & John M. Jackson	90
2002	Jackson's Mills, WV	Nancy Jackson	39
2000	North Plains, OR	John C. Jackson & Donna Bandeen	25

The dates in **red** are the “away reunions”

Some Selected Comments on JBC's Accomplishments

- A major accomplishment is "Just the fact that you exist!"
- The major accomplishment of the Jackson Brigade is "preserving the history of the Jackson Family."
- A major accomplishment of the Jackson Brigade is "putting descendants in touch with each other to share family history and adventures."
- A major accomplishment was "Preserving so much of that history by publishing it in the Quarterly. ... Publishing a high quality Quarterly such that some libraries want to collect it."
- "Each reunion is a significant event. Each represents tons of hours of preparation. Each reunion is a satisfying means of bringing members together for several days."

What JBC Means to Me

- "My thanks to all the folks who work so hard to make the Jackson Brigade Corporation the success that it is. I enjoy being a member."
- "I like hearing people's stories: their past, their contributions, their influence. And, add to that the fact that there is a family connection - that adds an extra "spice" to the story for me."
- "I treasure my membership in the Jackson Brigade and all the new relatives and friends I have met during our reunions!"
- "Although we come from many walks of life, we share the Jackson name and are proud of our heritage. ... You are a great bunch and I am glad to be a Jackson descendant!"

Conclusions

- “We should be proud of our lineage. It contains many prominent people.”
- "I believe Nancy [Jackson] is both gifted and a gift to us all. Her skillset and energy levels are pretty amazing.”
- "I'm very proud of the work in the research [on Jackson family history] and publishing the results. A lot of effort was due to Linda Meyers and John M. Jackson."
- "Not many genealogical organizations have celebrated 27 years."