

Celebration at the fort

Apple River Fort Foundation plans to dedicate newly restored log cabin at fort site

ELIZABETH—There's going to be quite a celebration at the Apple River Fort from 5-7 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 21.

At 6:30 p.m., there's going to be the dedication of the 1830's log cabin that has been moved to the fort property and restored. The winner of Massbach Ridge Winery's wine label contest for its "Elizabeth White" wine will be announced at 5:30 p.m.

Plus, the fort's first two site superintendents Susan Gordy, 2000-2008, and Dan Tindell, 2008-2014, will be attending.

According to Carl "Skip" Schwerdtfeger, Apple River Fort Foundation president, this is also going to be a family reunion.

According to Schwerdtfeger, the Casper family built the log cabin in the 1830s. Ten of their 12 children were born in this home. Some of the family now lives in Freeport and will be attending the dedication. Other family members, from as far away as Texas, will be coming to the dedication, as well.

Schwerdtfeger notes that archeology field work done in the 1990s indicated that log cabins occupied space near the fort. This log cabin has purposely not been placed on a former site.

This dedication has been four years in the making and has cost the foundation somewhere close to \$25,000.

The cabin was moved from the Jeff Koester farm on Mill Creek Road near Scales Mound to its present day site and then restored. If Schwerdtfeger had to do it again, he'd have taken the cabin down log by log, numbered the logs and then reassembled the cabin. It would have taken less time and money.

He said the cabin had survived through the years, because a barn had been built around it so it had been protected from the forces of nature.

If it weren't for the volunteers and others who helped in a variety of ways, the cost might have doubled.

Thirty volunteers showed up on two Saturdays to help John Howard of Howard Masonry Inc., chink the log cabin. Howard is finishing up with the final details. John Eversoll is also in the process of building a door and three windows for the log cabin, as well.



Two former site superintendents of the Apple River Fort, Susan Gordy, 2000-2008, and Dan Tindell, 2008-2014, will be attending the dedication of the 1830s log cabin at the Apple River Fort, Elizabeth, on Oct. 21. *Galena Gazette file photos*

lead role taken by the Rotary Club of Galena, led by member Paul Kindig, in initiating the initial fort project. Reminiscing, he talked about the roles played by John Yaeger, John Cooke, Rich Mattas,

In addition to Gordy and Tindell, Schwerdtfeger said that current and former volunteers and interpreters have been invited. The event is open to the public.

cost of the cabin project.

A candlelight and lantern tour of the fort and cabin will conclude the evening.

The fort foundation board includes Schwerdtfeger, Phil Johnson, Rich Dittman, Tim Schin...