

Steve Valentine Wins 2012 Susan Arthur Historical Preservation Award

The 2012 winner of the Susan Arthur Historical Preservation Award is Mr. Steve Valentine, a man who has worked and continues to work in many venues to preserve and promote Knox County's heritage and history. The award was presented by members of the GFWC/KFWC Junior Woman's Study Club October 8th at the Knox Central Middle School gymnasium before the presentation and Coronation of the 2012 Royalty of the 65th Daniel Boone Festival.

The Susan Arthur Historical Preservation Award is in recognition of the many contributions of Susan Arthur, longtime president and a founder of the Knox Historical Museum and a teacher and librarian in Knox and other adjacent counties. Miss Arthur spent many, many hours entertaining and educating students about the history of Knox County and our heritage. She annually came to the Club's candidate picnic where she shared many lovely and interesting stories about Knox County's early times. In her honor the Woman's Study Club created an award to recognize one person from our great county who goes above and beyond to preserve and maintain Knox County's history.

Mr. Valentine loves all areas of Knox County history. He is quite active with any historical event that goes on in the community. Mr. Valentine helps with the Red Bud Festival by giving his very knowledgeable tours. Mr. Valentine is a very active member of the Daniel Boone Festival Committee, serving as president for two years (2010-2011). He was also chair of the Daniel Boone Statue Committee which worked diligently to design, purchase and display the new Daniel Boone statue which proudly stands in front of the courthouse. He also attends the Battle of Barbourville reenactment every year.

After leaving his post as president of the Daniel Boone Festival Committee,



Steve Valentine receives the 2012 Susan Arthur Historical Award from Junior Woman's Study Club President Preshus Howard and Susie Dunaway

Photo: Eddie Arnold

Mr. Valentine wasted no time returning to community service by taking a full-time position with the Knox Historical Museum. Mike Mills, president of the museum, stated that Mr. Valentine is Vice President in charge of museum programs and is very active with day-to-day activities at the museum. He is helping collect historical photos of Barbourville and Knox County for display at the museum and researching numerous ongoing history projects for museum publications. He is one of the museum's most enthusiastic and informed docents and loves to give tours through the museum's wealth of exhibits. Mr. Valentine is an asset to any organization he is a part of.

Steve Valentine is the son of Bowen Green and Josephine Valentine and was born May 20, 1952. In July 1972 he was united in marriage to Sheri L. Comstock. Together they have one child, Anthony Craig and four grandchildren: Abijah Armstrong, Coby Valentine, Anthony

Valentine and Jeremy Valentine. He retired from Verizon Telephone and is currently working at the Knox County School System as a bus driver, having done so for the last seven years. The Valentines are members of the First United Methodist Church in Barbourville, where Steve is on the visitation committee. His hobbies are hunting, gardening, and attending and entering car shows.

Steve Valentine was presented the seventh annual Susan Arthur Historical Preservation Award, and his name was added to a second plaque which hangs on the Reception Room wall in the Knox Historical Museum. Previous winners of the Susan Arthur Award are Charles Reed Mitchell (2006), K.S. Sol Warren (2007), Michael C. Mills (2008), David and Betty Cole (2009), Nancy Clay Hampton (2010), and William Sherman Oxendine (posthumously 2011).

