

## David Cornett Wins 2013 Susan Arthur Historical Preservation Award

Longtime Daniel Boone Festival member, chairman of the Long Rifle Shootout, and historical reenactor David Cornett was announced as the winner of the 2013 Susan Arthur Historical Preservation Award during the 66th festival.

The award was presented "to an outstanding citizen of our county" by members of the GFWC/KFWC Junior Woman's Study Club October 7, 2013 at the Knox Central Middle School gymnasium before the presentation and coronation of the 2013 Daniel Boone Festival royalty.

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 County and adjacent counties. "Miss Arthur spent many, many hours entertaining and educating students about the history of Knox County and our heritage," the award presenter stated. "She annually came to our candidate picnic where she shared many lovely and interesting stories about Knox County's early times. In her honor we have created an award to recognize one person from our great county who goes above and beyond to preserve and maintain Knox County's history."

David Cornett worked very hard during his lifetime to preserve and promote Knox County's heritage and history. David Cornett was born in Knox County in 1948. This is the same year the Daniel Boone Festival was created by Union College's Karl Bleyl and the Class of 1948. They seemed to have been conceived under the same star because of their mutual love for Knox County, its incredible history and its role in the formation of the longest running festival in Kentucky dedicated to Daniel Boone.

As a youngster, he remembered the Daniel Boone Festival as an event he anticipated months in advance. Being an annual spectator turned him into an active participant soon after the 1963 Long Rifle Shootout at the Knox Central football field. Mr. Cornett developed a respect for long hunters such as Boone, who opened the way for the stout-hearted settlers that became the forefathers of modern-day Knox County and indeed America. In 1991, Mr. Cornett became the chairman of this annual event, and has enjoyed every one of the last twenty-two years. He is a familiar face



**David Cornett receives the 2013 Susan Arthur  
Preservation Award from Susie Dunaway**

at the Primitive Camp on North Main Street where he helps bring the Pioneer spirit to life. Mr. Cornett has previously catered the Daniel Boone Feast and also provides the information booth for the festival.

In 1989 Mr. Cornett was a founding member of the Warrior's Path Muzzleloaders Club. For the past 24 years, he, along with his fellow club members, have researched, documented, and perfected the skills and lifestyles of the Long Hunter and early settlers of the western movement. The club presently has fifty members, with a list of twenty-nine active members. Their living history demonstrations and knowledge has been showcased to tens of thousands of people throughout Kentucky, Tennessee, Ohio, Indiana and Michigan.

In 1998, David and his wife Betty achieved a lifelong dream of theirs by purchasing the Revolutionary War Grant property, known as McNeil's Crossing. After a five year labor of love, he refurbished the 1873 farm house, along with outlying structures, consisting of an ice house, coffin shop, and blacksmith's shop, along with the largest cantilever log barn in Kentucky,

accented by over 2000 feet of traditional split rail fencing. They opened the Kentucky historical site to the public for special events such as Pioneer Farm Days, music festivals, antique tractor and car shows, and long rifle shoots. Historic McNeil's Crossing in conjunction with the Warrior's Path Muzzleloaders have hosted the Appalachian Service Project's Culture Night for eight weeks each summer for the past four years. One of the largest events hosted on site for five years was the Civil War Reenactment of the Battle of Barbourville.

Mr. Cornett was born January 8, 1948, to Green Clark Cornett and Bertha Mae Prichard. In 1968, he united in marriage with Betty Jean Carnes and together they have three children, Robin Hamilton, David Scott Cornett and Crystal Fisher. They have five grandchildren, Karley and Logan Hamilton, Miranda and Gabe Cornett, and Dalton Fisher. David is the owner of Cornett's Used Cycle and along with his son David Scott, has repaired and serviced motorcycles and ATVs for the past forty years.

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