

Michael C. Mills Wins Susan Arthur Historical Preservation Award

Michael C. Mills, author of three photo collection books on Barbourville and frequent contributor to *The Knox Countian*, was named the third recipient of the Susan Arthur Historical Preservation Award at the Daniel Boone Festival Royalty Coronation 7 October 2008. He was given the award by GFWC/KFWC Junior Woman's Study Club President Kim Wilburn at the Knox Central Middle School gymnasium prior to the presentation of royalty candidates.

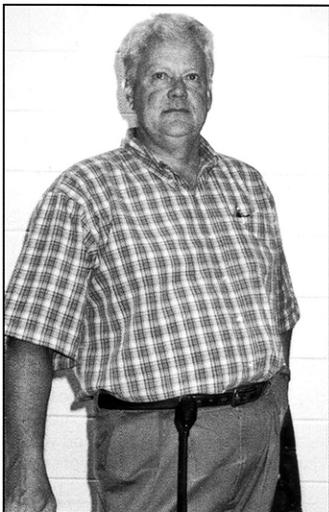
In 2006 the Junior Woman's Study Club created the award as a new feature of the Daniel Boone Festival to honor the late Susan Arthur, former president of the Knox Historical Museum and official storyteller at the club's annual picnic for royalty candidates. The award acknowledges an individual who has made significant contributions to the preservation of local history, traditions and other forms of this region's cultural heritage.

No individual has labored longer or harder than Mills in gathering photographs, genealogical data, and historical documents about the early years of Barbourville and Knox County than Mike Mills. Kim Wilburn's presentation speech outlines the highlights of his many contributions:

He was born in 1945 and raised in Bimble. He attended school throughout his education here in Knox County. This man developed an interest in local history while in college in the 1960s. This interest led him to begin collecting old photos relating to Knox County and Barbourville in the early 1970s. This man was a teacher in the Knox County School System for thirty years. His interest in Knox County and our history prompted him to encourage his students in high school to participate in local history projects and learn about the rich heritage we share here in Knox County. Many a student at Knox Central has been encouraged to look up not only their family history and family trees but the local history as well.

We will be grateful to him for his many activities and contributions to the shaping and preserving of our history but a few examples will suffice to stand for the whole:

He was instrumental in the founding of the Knox County Historical Society. He was a charter member and officer of the Knox Historical Museum. He has been president of the Daniel



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Boone Festival six times and is a lifetime director.

He recently did the local research for the location of the new Civil War Interpretive Park which opened this past September. He has written articles for the Festival and others, continuously sharing the rich and exciting heritage of Knox County with the community and those who have

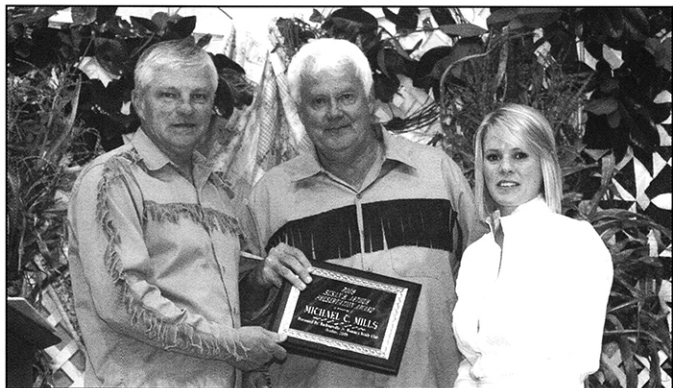
read his articles.

He is a published author. His first book in 1977 was *Barbourville KY - A Pictorial Look Back*. His most recent publication was the book *Barbourville and Knox County, Kentucky* in 2000. He is presently working on a new book called "Nasby Mills and the Early Settlement of Stinking Creek." He is truly a keeper of history.

He has worked for the Cumberland River Comprehensive Care Center's regional drug and alcohol prevention center for the past 10 years. He and his wife have two children - Kim Mahan, a teacher at Knox Central High School, and David Mills, an attorney in Barbourville and former Daniel Boone Festival president. He and his wife also have five grandchildren. He and his wife Jane have been married for 42 years.

The man of whom I am speaking is Michael C. Mills.

The Junior Woman's Study Club presents the Susan Arthur Historical Preservation Award annually in the form of two plaques. One is given to the person they choose to honor for following in Miss Arthur's steps and preserving our history. The second plaque hangs on the wall in the reception room at the museum where Susan Arthur worked. Each year the new award recipient's name is engraved on this plaque kept on display at the Knox Historical Museum. Michael C. Mills' name joins previous award winners Charles Reed Mitchell (2006) and K.S. Sol Warren (2007).



Earl Hammons, Jr., Mills, and Kim Wilburn.

Photo by Eddie Arnold