

News from the NorthEast

Steve Bloom

For those of you who missed the state meeting (held at Barberville - Feb.11), you missed a great meeting. The anvils were ringing as early as 8:30 and something was going till late in the afternoon. The official activity began with a meeting in the shop of all those attending (Walt Anderson presiding). The first order of business was the dedication of the blacksmith's shop by the Reverend Carl Brinkley (of the African Methodist Episcopal Church). The many people who contributed to the planning, building and equipping of the shop were acknowledged and thanked. Marilyn Breeze, the Director of the Pioneer Settlement presented Lester Hollenbeck with a plaque as a token of the appreciation of the Settlement for his tireless work in making the shop a reality and as serving as a major conduit of information about blacksmithing to the students who visit the Settlement. Junia Crosby, the President of the Settlement, presented a plaque to Bill Gichner in appreciation for his major contribution of tools. The Board of the Settlement was introduced and many of those who had traveled long distances to attended the dedication were also acknowledged (such as Bill Gichner, Fred Caylor, and Floyd Daniel).

The demonstrators who graciously contributed their time were Bill, John Dittmeier, J.C.Hawkins, and P.J. Schrimmeler. I apologize to anybody I overlooked, but between making smoke and firescale myself (yes - I did get the forge lit this time), attending meetings (and getting in Roger Steward's way when he was cutting a couple of oak logs for me), I never made it into the shop during the demonstrations. There was a general business meeting during which our new newsletter editor was announced (and I would like to echo the enthusiastic thanks that goes to Jerry Grice for holding down that job for so long), and Clyde Payton gave us a brief overview of the finances of FABA. Speaking of finances, the Buck-in-the-Bucket was a great success - we raised \$142 and I would like to thank all those who contributed items and those who tried their luck at winning them. After a fine bar-b-que lunch of chicken or ribs (contributed by the Settlement as a way of thanking the smiths), Floyd Daniel shot the anvil (and graciously offered to let anyone who caught it, keep it). Demonstrations continued into the afternoon.

The next meeting will be at John Cross's shop (J.C.Hawkins will be hosting the May meeting) and I'll be hosting the June one. Other than that, it will be Barberville every 1st Saturday unless someone else wants to volunteer. We'll be holding Buck-in-a-Bucket at all meetings, so come prepared.

