

Dear Supporters and Friends of Fort Mims,

I want to share something very exciting and important with you! The week before the re-enactment weekend at Fort Mims, I received an email about the 'Sponsor a log' funding campaign for the Blockhouse we are trying to construct on the site. Mary Blake Francis, a Great Granddaughter of Ft. Mims survivor Edward Steadham, will be turning 99 in October and her niece, Sylvia Johnson, wrote to their family about doing something to honor her on this very special birthday —'why not sponsor a log for Fort Mims in honor of Aunt Mary?'. She quickly got positive responses from the family and suddenly there was enough for four logs! What an exciting time! The log campaign was just getting started with 9 logs already sponsored plus these additional ones!

Arrangements were made for the check to be presented at the gathering just before the 2011 Fort Mims Reenactment. This would be a good way to kick off the public awareness of what we are trying to do before the 200th Anniversary. During this week, I was also made aware of another donation to be made so we added it to the list! Two presentations now planned! Wow!

On Saturday, August 27, just after the Burnt Corn Reenactment, I met Sylvia Johnson. She had traveled with her children and grandchildren from Mississippi to make the presentation for the family. We were both full of smiles and excitement!

As 3pm neared and the crowd was assembled for the speakers and the 'battle', we began the announcement to the crowd about the 'Sponsor a Log' Campaign. Then began the special presentations: The Military Order of Stars and Bars were represented by Bert Blackmon. (He participated during the weekend by portraying his G/G/G Uncle who was a visiting surgeon at Fort Mims – another Descendant of a Survivor) The MOSB made a donation for a blockhouse log. (This brought us up to 10!)

An extra surprise happened when Brien McWilliams, commander of the 6th Alabama Cavalry Regiment, presented another sponsorship on their behalf! (11!)

How can that be topped? The surprises continued! When Mrs. Johnson made her presentation, her families' sponsorship had increased from 4 to 6 logs!! Fantastic! (17!!)

On Sunday, Mr. and Mrs. Bill Morris came forward and 'bought' a log! Then, Edith and Martin McGuire and Pat Watson (2 Board Members) joined together to sponsor another log! I received a check from Tom Ollinger of Point Clear for another!!! Then Steve Hester presented a check for his donation!!

Can you believe it?! We are up to 21 Sponsorships!!!! Twelve during and right after the reenactment weekend.

There were several others who came forward and pledged to join in the program. FMRA is so thankful for all the support. With your help we WILL accomplish the goal of having the Fort Mims Blockhouse completed by the 200th Anniversary in 2013!

Please check out the LOG SPONSOR area for a complete listing of those who have donated!

We are so grateful to all of you! Many, many thanks,

Claudia