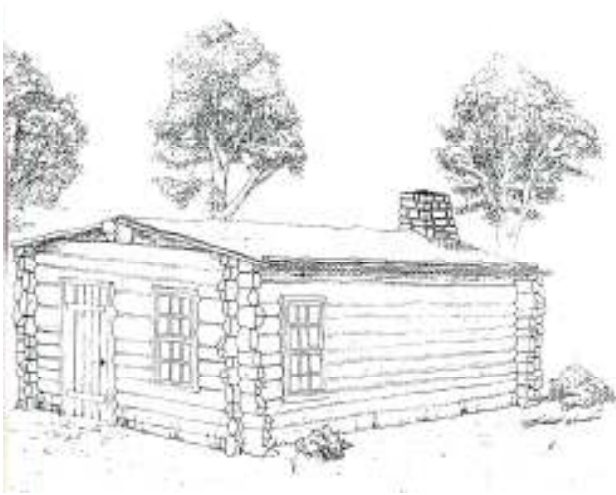


Building Family Relationships Through the Adopt-A-Cabin Project

As the years pass and we reflect back over our time on this earth many of us find that a lot of our earlier priorities are no longer as important as they once seemed. What becomes increasingly important are good friends, reasonable health, and family relationships. Special family relationships are the result of traditions established over the years, time spent sharing stories, working and playing together, building memories, and learning to serve one another.

As we have watched our children interact with their cousins we hope that our grandchildren will be added to the mix expanding the special feelings that bind extended family members together.

Though often overlooked, this same feeling of joy existed with our parents and grandparents as they observed our growth. As more of us come to the realization that our ancestors have an interest in our family relationships just as we are interested in our descendants, we become witnesses to the reality that “the hearts of the children shall turn to their fathers”.



The Vision of a Reconstructed Cabin

As members of the Hole-in-the-Rock Foundation we have experienced this desire to honor the sacrifice, determination, and dedication of our ancestors by restoring Bluff Fort, the place they founded and called home. Part of our vision for the restored Fort include the construction of log cabins similar in size (13 ½ feet by 15 ½ feet) and design to those built by our great grandparents. The cabins include a stone fireplace; sod roof and wood floor following the pattern used by our ancestors who made their homes from hand cut cottonwood trees which lined the river bed.

The Adopt-a-Cabin Project has already started to become a reality as you see from the Redd and Barton cabins constructed in October of 2008.

We had the wonderful opportunity to have over 100 family members and friends of James Monroe visit Bluff in October and participate in the construction of our first three cabins. They included the Redd cabin, the Barton cabin and the Amasa Barton blacksmith shop.



The Reality -- the Redd Cabin

It is impossible to put into words the binding together of generations and extended family members as they worked and played in this beautiful setting. Hearts were touched;

children and adults alike will always remember their chance to LIVE a little of the past, to understand how important dedication, commitment, and hard work was to their ancestors. They now can say they have experienced the stickytoitee that was so much a part of the pioneer way of life in Bluff. We invite you to become part of this life changing experience by gathering together as descendants of _____ and reconstructing their cabin.

Inside the newly constructed Redd Cabin



Redd fireplace under construction

As you can see our vision is becoming a reality. Some of you may think that in today's uncertain times it would be impossible to gather the funds, set aside the time, and coordinate family vacations to allow for the construction of such a project but it is in your blood. Those who settled Bluff Fort "accomplished the seemingly impossible through dedication, cooperation, and industry" and with their spirit of faith and determination you can accomplish this as well.

To obtain additional information on building a legacy to your ancestors please contact:



Graig Taylor -- 801 -- 836-2402
or
Grant Taylor -- 801 -- 971-5306

Completed Redd Cabin with restored wagon



The first three cabins

Far right, Barton – Center, Blacksmith shop – Middle left, Redd