



Voiture 1379 Communiqué for February 2019

Membership is currently at thirty nine (39) out of forty two (42).

Dan Mott, Janet Keating, and Jerry Phelps are still unpaid for 2019 membership year. As usual membership is life blood of any organization so let's get out there and find new members to help support the Forty and Eight and its programs.

Don't forget the upcoming Grande du Missouri Spring WRECK being held March 22 – 24 in Saint Louis. Voiture 1379 hopes to have one P.G. to be WRECK'ed. So get your reservations in so you can join in the fun and welcome them into the Forty and Eight.

FYI: Feb 19 1821 – Civil War: Francis Preston Blair, Jr., born » Union General Francis Preston Blair Jr. is born in Lexington, Kentucky. The colorful Blair was instrumental in keeping Missouri part of the Union during the early stages of the Civil War. Blair's father served as an advisor to several presidents. His namesake and youngest son was privileged and rebellious as a youth. As a college student, the younger Blair was expelled from the University of North Carolina and Yale for misconduct. He finally finished his degree at Princeton, but was denied graduation for participating in a wild party in his final week. Blair's degree was bestowed a year later after an influential friend intervened on his behalf. Blair studied law in Kentucky and went onto practice in Missouri with his brother, Montgomery, who would later serve as U.S. postmaster general under President Abraham Lincoln. During the 1850s, Francis ran an anti-slave newspaper in St. Louis and served in the Missouri legislature. He was elected To the U.S. House of Representatives in 1856. Blair was opposed to the extension of slavery, even though he owned a few slaves himself. His stance led to his defeat for re-election in 1858. In 1860, Blair campaigned for Abraham Lincoln and also regained his congressional seat. When the Civil War erupted, he organized Missouri's Unionist forces and helped save the federal arsenal in St. Louis from the Confederates. Blair personally organized seven regiments from Missouri, and became a Brigadier General, winning the respect of his superiors, Ulysses S. Grant and William T. Sherman. Blair commanded a corps during Sherman's March to the Sea in Georgia 1864. After the war, Blair served in the U.S. Senate, but a stroke ended his political career. He died in 1875. Feb 21 1881 – WWI: Washington Monument dedicated » Built in honor of America's revolutionary hero and first president, the monument is dedicated in Washington, D.C The 555-foot-high marble obelisk was first proposed in 1783, and Pierre L'Enfant left room for it in his designs for the new U.S. capital. After George Washington's death in 1799, plans for a memorial for the "father of the country" were discussed, but none were adopted until 1832—the centennial of Washington's birth. Architect Robert Mills' hollow Egyptian obelisk design was accepted for the monument, and on July 4, 1848, the cornerstone was laid. Work on the project was interrupted by political quarreling in the 1850s, and construction ceased entirely during the American Civil War. Finally, in 1876, Congress, inspired by the American centennial, passed legislation appropriating \$200,000 for completion of the monument. In February 1885, the Washington Monument was formally dedicated, and three years later it was opened to the public, who were permitted to climb to the top of the monument by stairs or elevator. The monument was the tallest structure in the world when completed and remains today, by District of Columbia law, the tallest building in the nation's capital.

This months Promenade will be on February 27th at Post 61 – Kansas City - with dinner at 18:00 HRS. The Promenade will begin at 19:00 HRS.

Thank you for your service to Our Great Nation, your service to the 40et8 through Voiture 1379. If we all work together we can and do make a difference.

Robert C. Emery, Correspondant Locale, Voiture 1379

Check us out on the web <http://www.voiture1379.com>

Check out the Grande du Missouri web site <http://www.grandedumissouri.com>