

For sale: Steel Swamp Foxes

Sale of newly-created 'Steel Swamp Foxes' to benefit new Gen. Francis Marion Center in the City of Marion

The Francis Marion Initiative, comprised of a group of Marion educators, history lovers and reenactors, came before the Marion City Council in June to present their plans for a Gen. Francis Marion Center. Denley Caughman, a member of the Initiative and the Hugh Giles Regiment, Britton's Neck Militia, which operates under the auspices of Marion's Main Street Program, told council members that the new center, to be based in downtown Marion, will serve "as an anchor in the discovery of education and conservation of people, places, and events in the American Revolution."

The Center will "make tangible our rich heritage to our students and educational community," Johnakin Middle School history teacher Wallace Foxworth, also a group member, told those present. Francis Marion and his brigade provide a story that needs to be told, "a voice ready to be heard," Caughman said, and the Initiative believes a new Center will bring others to Marion in their pursuit of information about the General.

The center is in the first stages of development and members of the state's Parks, Recreation and Tourism Department attended the June Council meeting to show that group's support for the Initiative's efforts. Public and private funding is being sought for the project.

Toward that end, the Steel Swamp Fox has been created and is for sale, initially for \$25. The next run of the Swamp Foxes, each with a tag telling the story of Marion's namesake, will cost \$30 each. The first \$20 goes to pay for the cost of producing the keepsake and the rest of the money will go to the Center.

The Steel Swamp Fox was created by Pete Rambo of www.themetalpalmetto.com. Each fox is hand-finished and is unique. For an additional cost there is a heat-tempered version of the Swamp Fox for sale, too. The average height of the keepsake is 9", width 6" and the breadth is 10."

For information about purchasing a Steel Swamp Fox, call Pam Jones in City Hall at 423-5961. For information about the Gen. Francis Marion Center or the Francis Marion Initiative, call Dianne Owens in City Hall, 423-5961.

