



News

The oldest statewide historic preservation organization in Tennessee

ASSOCIATION FOR THE PRESERVATION OF TENNESSEE ANTIQUITIES

FALL/WINTER 2011



President's Message

by Bob Notestine, President

The 60th Anniversary of the APTA: What Is Our Future?

On November 8, 1951, a group of very far-sighted women formed the APTA in order to preserve and maintain Tennessee's rich cultural heritage. We are one of the oldest historic preservation organizations in the United States. The goals of this initial group are further described in the APTA's charter and by-laws. Sixty years later the APTA continues to carry out these goals. I wish I had known these women so that I could have absorbed some of their vision for the future. As I look back upon my years as a board member and then President of the APTA, I think we have accomplished much. We have a stable organization, we have helped to preserve our sites, and I believe we have become a "preservation player" in this state. We have and are reaching out to other historic and preservation organizations.

But we can't rest on our laurels and past successes. The APTA has to continue to reinvent itself. As our organization has aged, so has our membership. We have lost so many fine and valuable members in recent years. To survive, this organization and the chapters must seek new members constantly. Not only must we sign up new members, we must get them involved in our programs. In line with this goal, we must attract young members. We must embrace the new technologies that come with younger members. The youth are our future.

I am probably preaching something I have brought up before. I don't want to sound like a broken record. We must set goals for new membership and achieve these goals. I urge our board and all the chapters to start membership campaigns immediately. To accomplish what we need to do in this state we need, in my opinion, at least 3,500 members. We are far short of that number. But we need active members who want to participate in the preservation of our history and its structures.

Money is tight and the economy is in a heavy recession. Having said this, I believe the APTA is not only a "survivor" but it is also a necessity. We are a necessary element in the preservation movement in this state. My challenge to each of you is to extend the opportunity to join the APTA to everyone you know. We need them and the preservation movement needs them. With their help the APTA will celebrate its 100th birthday in 2051!

Why I Joined APTA

by Ken Savage, President, Hardeman County APTA Chapter

I will be the first to tell you, I am not the kind of person who volunteers for much. So why does anyone join a club like this? Is it for the cheap discounts to other APTA sites? Maybe it's the two or three events every year where you will be seen and let others know you care. Is it the love of history or the low membership fees? Maybe my reason for joining were all of those, but my main reason was this:

My mother (Audrey Savage) was one of the founding members of the APTA Hardeman County Chapter, and for years she tried to get me to join. I never did, while she was alive. I felt I was either too busy with work or family, or just doing what I wanted to do. I had an older home of my own (1898), and didn't want to worry about anyone else's. Then one day it hit me, I guess. If someone didn't do something, all the work that she and others had done might be gone some day. It seems like over time, history can slip away fast—too fast. Buildings get torn down, old pictures get lost, family items scattered. She did so much to try to keep it all together, I owed her and my ancestors something more than just being a member and paying my fee.

My first year (2008) as a member of APTA has meant a lot to me. We (APTA) sponsored the Smithsonian exhibit "New Harmonies." This was a first of its kind for the county. A lot of kids saw a first class exhibit they otherwise never would. We raised funds to restore the Little Court House Museum. That year, APTA started "Music on the Square," which is now a yearly event (April-October) for Bolivar and Hardeman County. The county built a new amphitheater on Court Square for it, and it is now in its fourth year. All this was done in my first year.

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Executive Director's Message

by Elliott McNiel, CAE, Executive Director

Are we successfully passing along what we know to those who follow us in historic preservation?

This thought actually came to me in a continuing education seminar when a discussion began about the difficulties of working with the members of Generations X and Y. Except for a few, the attendees at the seminar were mainly young people. I don't think they see themselves as difficult to work with, just that they have a different style. I didn't see the "difficulties" either. As it is our responsibility to pass along what we have learned, I saw challenges to understand where those generations are coming from and meeting their needs. Each generation is different. We've all had different ways of doing things than the generation before us. That's progress. When I spoke about the APTA in that seminar the response was always, "Thank goodness someone is doing it." My question to them was, "Why aren't you doing it?" The next day I handed out brochures and membership forms. Since we are eventually going to hand over the APTA properties to those in Generation X and Y, we'd better start understanding how they work, what they want and how we can structure volunteer opportunities to recruit them.

I asked two of our younger members to write brief articles about their involvement in historic preservation. Both appear in this issue. I encourage you to read them and think about your Chapter's plans to pass along its wealth of information. You've all worked hard to preserve Tennessee's treasures. There are those coming behind us who are just as dedicated in doing the same.

Why I Joined, cont.

All this would not have happened without volunteers such as you and me. Please don't leave all the work to a few. As some will say, "Ten percent of the members do 90 percent of the work." Unfortunately, that is true almost everywhere. All chapters need more members to pitch in and help out, even if it is just volunteering on Saturdays to keep your site open, or help clean or paint or anything else that comes up. Sometimes, it is not enough just to pay your membership fee on time. Without that 10 percent doing what's needed to be done, I would not have been honored with the very first Governor's Volunteer Star of the Year Award for Hardeman County in 2008. I am proud to have received this honor from the Governor and hope everyone will pitch in and make this happen for you too. But I didn't join APTA for an award; just knowing what we accomplished was award enough.

Just think how much more could be done, if 90 percent of members each did just 10 percent of the work that is needed. Invite a friend to a meeting or to your site, and get them involved too. Many hands make for easier and faster work! A chance to make a difference in your community starts with you. Everyone can make a difference. This year I am proud to have been elected president of our chapter and hope to continue the good work of our past leaders. Now it is up to you; so why did you join APTA?



theapta.com

Keeping Up With Technology

The APTA has developed its own QR (Quick Response) Code. Scan this code with your iPhone and it will take you straight to the APTA website. There you'll find the latest information on our properties, events, membership, and links to other sites to help you in your effort to preserve our heritage.



The Caretakers of the Future

by Elizabeth H. Bishop

Historic properties are a valuable part of Tennessee's culture, helping to tell the story of the Volunteer State to visitors and residents alike, and their continued preservation and conservation is vital to ensuring that future generations will be able to enjoy and benefit from them, just as we have. Historic properties are constantly under threat of being either neglected or simply destroyed, and the organizations that are dedicated to preserving them are struggling to raise the necessary funds to maintain them in both tough and healthy economic times. I can attest to the fact that a seeming lack of financial support should not be mistaken as a sign of a younger generation's disinterest, though. As with every preceding generation, there is a talented group of young professionals dedicated to preserving the historic environment, attempting to enter into the sector and make their contributions. This group represents the future of historic preservation, and, again, as with every preceding generation, with them they bring change. Only through the support of the current caretakers and by being allowed the opportunity to build on the foundations that previous generations have created are we to succeed.

Preservation is all about keeping the historic environment in existence. In order to accomplish this huge task, the heritage sector must evolve to ensure survival. Fortunately, there is a large number of young people striving to enter the field, want-

ing to bring their special skill set to the table in order to facilitate the necessary, positive changes. A generation of professionals who grew up in the age of technology is already making their mark in the industry by pioneering a digital revolution. Both large and small heritage organizations are already successfully harnessing the marketing power of the Internet in order to provide greater public access to heritage sites.

While change is inevitable, what is certain is the continued importance of the historic environment, and technology is just one tool that we can employ in preserving it. What can never be replaced is the experience of physically visiting a site. For me, it is the complete package a historic property offers the visitor that makes historic properties so unique. The architecture, the setting, the contents and the history of a building combine to create an environment with which we can engage and identify with as well as learn from. To be able to walk into a house and see the dining table that was specifically crafted for the room, or glimpse the garden from the drawing room window, as it was designed to be seen, is not an experience that a computer screen can offer. Only in the original setting can an historic property be completely enjoyed and understood, and I am proud to be able to count myself among the future caretakers who will continue to preserve the historic environment by any and all means possible for the benefit of all who visit them.

Looking Toward the Future

by Jesse Williams

"We cannot always build the future for our youth, but we can build our youth for the future."

—PRESIDENT FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT

Chapters, please ask your boards these questions: Why are we preservationists? Where do we see our chapter in five to ten years? Are we teaching people to carry on our work? The purpose of these questions is to make you think about the future of not only your chapter, but also the APTA in general. We in the APTA are all linked by a love of history and preservation. I believe one very important reason the Chapter members have spent so much time diligently caring for their historical properties is to teach future generations about them. Only by passing along the significance of these important links to the past to those who follow will their survival will be ensured.

Generations X and Y, or people born from the mid-1980s to the late 1990s, are the people who will continue your work of preservation. I know we are different and sometimes hard to understand. We have opinions and we grew up having those opinions acknowledged. I am sure that if you look back at every generation in established society, they were shaking their

heads about the succeeding generation. In our own way, we are as dedicated to preserving Tennessee's rich history as you are. Many in these generations are eager to learn from your experience in running historical properties so that we may follow in your footsteps. Only with your help will we be ready to pick up the torch of preservation that you have carried for many years. It is important to us to be properly prepared to teach our children about these amazing pieces of Tennessee history. We want to learn from you and to be empowered to share with you the things we have learned in school or from our experience. We want to work together.

Society changes. We must change and move forward with it. We must adapt our museums and ourselves to what our supporters want. We must consider new and better ways to preserve our properties. What better way to connect to a whole new audience of young people than by listening to them and implementing new ideas and programs to attract and retain our youth?

News from the APTA Chapters

ARLINGTON CHAPTER

by Phyllis Kennedy, President

The Arlington Chapter held its **Annual Membership Breakfast** in June at one of Arlington's historic houses, Crimson Cottage. Members and guests enjoyed an outdoor breakfast, and new officers for the Chapter were installed.

The **Rachel H.K. Burrow Museum** was open on the third Saturday each month May through October. Special exhibits during this time featured canning, Wine of Cardui, Halloween Past, Mabel Williams Hughes, and Charles O. Williams. Wine of Cardui (a tonic for women's ailments) was developed in Arlington in the 1870s by Reverend R. L. McElree. Mrs. Hughes and Ms. Williams were Arlington citizens who played significant roles in education in Shelby County in the early 1900s. In October, our **Blacksmith Shop** was open with blacksmithing demonstrations by Bill Perry. Blacksmithing demonstrations will be given at our Blacksmith Shop again on December 3. An exhibit honoring veterans was open to the public at our Historic Post Office on November 6 prior to Arlington's Veteran's Day Ceremony. For December, the exterior of our buildings will feature seasonal decoration reminiscent of the early 1900s. The next opening for our sites will be during Arlington in April.

During the fall and through spring, our sites will be undergoing maintenance and improvements. The interior of the Rachel H.K. Burrow Museum will be cleaned, and exhibits will be upgraded. Other sites also have been checked for maintenance needs, and repairs and improvements have and will be made. Our **Harrell Farm Log Cabin** is in need of a weathered log for repairs. If you have a log we can use, please let us know. All are invited to visit our sites in April 2012.

WOODRUFF-FONTAINE CHAPTER

by Peggy Lovell, President

On Friday, September 16 ten wonderful volunteers from

United Technologies arrived at Woodruff-Fontaine as part of **United Way's Day of Caring**. They painted the fountain fence, trimmed crepe myrtles, weeded hedgerows, painted

a staircase and cleaned out window wells. They accomplished in a few hours what it would have taken

us weeks to do. For several years Woodruff-Fontaine has benefited from this community service, and we look forward to our next group of volunteers!



BUCHANAN LOG HOUSE CHAPTER

Fall Festival

by Joe Cathy

Over 450 people celebrated the changing of the season by gathering at the Buchanan Log House for its annual **Fall Festival**. Kids were treated to free train rides by Engineer Charlie Paul on his Water Valley Express, and shoppers had some 20 vendors to choose from with items such as books, gourds, silver turquoise jewelry and much more. The 1847 Addison Museum was an ideal backdrop for the musicians, square dancers, and singers who so superbly entertained the Festival participants. Music by the Grand Old Dulcimer Club, Nashville Old Time String Band, Cripple Creek Cloggers and several soloists complemented the day.

The Festival enjoyed beautiful weather for the demonstrators of 17th and 18th century wood working, blacksmithing, quilting, weaving, and other crafts. As expected,

Betsy Ross was beside the log smokehouse making stars for Old Glory. Also popular with the visitors and shoppers were the reenactors from the Civil War era, including two Confederate soldiers and Abraham and Mary Lincoln, and Buchanan Log House neighbors Andrew and Rachel Jackson. You could feel the passing of history before your eyes by just walking through the Buchanan Market Place—modern entrepreneurs melding with the old craftsmen of days gone by.



News from the APTA Chapters

RAMSEY HOUSE CHAPTER

A Haunting at Ramsey

by Judy McLean

A Haunting at Ramsey was held Saturday evening, July 9 at the Ramsey House Plantation and proved to be a great success. Close to 670 people attended, including many local celebrities who greeted folks or told great stories, such as Jennifer Alexander of B97.5 and Trixie from 94.3 the X, Wayne Bledsoe and Terry Morrow of the *Knoxville News Sentinel*, Don Dare of 6 On Your Side, Lauren Davis and Alan Williams from Channel 8, Bob Kesling, Bill Landry, and Bill Williams. FrightWorks



entertained the crowd with a wide variety of creepy characters, Colonel Ramsey made an appearance, Chip Bailey strolled the grounds with his fiddle, Flat Creek BBQ provided wonderful food, and all enjoyed the marshmallow roast. Exhibits of Civil War weaponry by Gerald Augustus and Ed Archer's medicine and surgery as well as Halloween decorations from Emery's 5 & 10 were on display. The demonstration of an actual amputation as it would have been on the battlefield finished off the evening.



RUTHERFORD COUNTY CHAPTER

by Denise Carlton, President

On July 16, the Rutherford County Chapter held its annual meeting. The day began with an unveiling of a marker at the 1917 two-story turn-of-the-century building of **Bradley Academy Museum & Cultural Center**. A brief meeting and presentation by the staff and United States Colored Troops reenactors followed the luncheon.

Bradley Academy is a community museum, owned by the City of Murfreesboro. The original academy dates back almost to the start of Rutherford County and the township of Murfreesboro. A school under this name has been at several locations and one site was attended by President James K. Polk. The building site after the Civil War later became the main school for African Americans. The current building and museum includes many exhibits telling the story of African Americans and features a turn-of-the-century classroom. A new museum exhibit is on display for the 150th anniversary of the Civil War showcasing the role of the United States Colored Troops.

The Rutherford County Chapter unveiled markers for two properties on Sunday, October 2. The **Fulgham Nuell Black House** is a restored gable front and end design frame with trim and details of the Victorian era. The land on which this house is built once was on the lane leading to the Maney plantation known as Oak Manor or Oaklands. The house, built circa 1876



Fulgham Nuell Black House



Gannaway Broxton Pirtle House

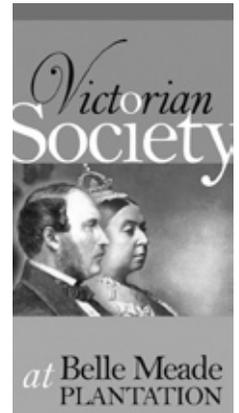
by G. H. Fulgham, was one of the first known as the "Maney Additions" town lots. This was the beginning of historic Maney Avenue which is the site of many historic and architectural buildings of that period. The **Gannaway Broxton Pirtle House** is a 1907 Arts and Crafts home, built by Benjamin Franklin (B. F.) Gannaway and Mary Tarpley Gannaway.

News from the APTA Chapters

BELLE MEADE PLANTATION CHAPTER

by Genevieve Joyner

Are you interested in all things Victorian? The **Victorian Society** at Belle Meade Plantation kicked off in January and has had a wonderful year so far, with even more exciting events and activities coming up this fall and winter season. The Society explores the Victorian era through workshops, excursions, and events. One of the most memorable events to date was **Whist, Wagers, and Wellington on the River**, held on the General Jackson Showboat. More than 25 Society Members dressed for the occasion in their 1890s best and enjoyed an evening of music, dancing, playing cards, and delicious food including one of Queen Victoria's favorites, cherries jubilee. The next exciting event planned for the Society was a **Victorian Masquerade Ball** held inside the Belle Meade Mansion in October. Join the Victorian Society and experience the 19th century for yourself. For more information or to join, email victoriansociety@belle-meadeplantation.com.



HARDEMAN COUNTY CHAPTER

by Ken Savage

Sometimes you have to get off the Interstate to see the real Tennessee. Bolivar, in rural West Tennessee, has three historic districts with over 150 buildings on the National Register of Historic Places, with two being APTA sites. **The Pillars** (c. 1828) is the ancestral home of John Houston Bills, early Hardeman County settler, plantation owner/planter, merchant, and civic leader. The county's first brick home, The Pillars still has most of the family's original possessions. The other APTA site, the **Little Court House Museum** (1824), is the county's first log courthouse and jail. The Little Court House now serves as our county museum,



The Little Court House

full of interesting information and artifacts from early pioneer days to today.

This fall, our chapter's **Annual Barbecue Supper** at The Pillars was a great success.

I am sure Mr. Bills would have been pleased with the turnout and tours of the home. As a sponsor of our local festival, our APTA chapter was busy in October with more tours, even a guided cemetery tour. To start our holiday season, we will host an open house that is free to the public at The Pillars on December 6 from 4:00-6:00 p.m.



The Pillars

This past year has seen its challenges, and the New Year will bring even more.

I am sure our chapter will move forward to bring even more guests to visit our sites, while continuing to preserve our ancestral past. Fund raising and new membership drives will always be on our list as well.

To learn more about Hardeman County and its history visit the Little Court House Museum every second and fourth Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Visit www.thepillars.org and follow us on Facebook at The Pillars and Little Courthouse. Anytime you're in the area, just contact us for a tour.

Details of Mourning

Mourning fashion was severe. Crepe, the dull silk made for dresses and scarves, doesn't breathe, wool was heavy and uncomfortable, and the most ironic of all...most of the black dyes used to preserve the intense lack of color were quite toxic. Black dyes were so toxic that the chemical compounds caused respiratory and skin infections, hallucinations, extreme fevers, and death itself!

No matter the odd side effects, fashion and social custom was just that...fashion. The proud Victorians gave birth to this kind of severe fashion, no matter the social class. During a mourning period, every detail was shrouded in black...as it is the absence of color, thus the absence of light and life. Everyday fashion accessories, both practical and impractical, became mournful fashion "must haves." Fans, gloves, hats and hat pins, handkerchiefs, and scarves were very popular items that were purchased for the all-too-frequent "dread visitor's" calling.

Gentlemen were not immune to the powers of mourning fashion. Details for a male mourner would include a black beaver's pelt top hat (practical, as it was rain resistant), armbands, sashes, and gloves for pallbearers, and the quintessential "weeds" (long scarves wrapped around the hat to symbolize deep mourning).

Details for the Victorian lady were most extreme during the mourning period. Wardrobes and closets would hold an arsenal of clothing and accessories fit for the most mournful fashionista. Mourning jewelry became necessary and stunningly beautiful with the use of onyx, vulcanite, and black amethyst. Locketts and cameos with images of their lost beloved held inside were sentimental pieces. Hair jewelry had become equally popular and suitable for men, women, children, and even became a cherished medium of artwork used in the home, called Tress Pointe.

Tress Pointe: The Art of Hairwork

by A. J. Northrup

Women's hair, seldom cut and worn in twists or braids around their heads, was their crowning glory. They brushed it daily and, always frugal, saved the strands from the brush in a small bowl or covered dish called a "hair receiver." While some of this was rolled into a small bun or ball to become the basis of pompadours and elaborate upswept coiffure, the rest of it called for ingenuity. Nineteenth century ladies rose to the challenge.

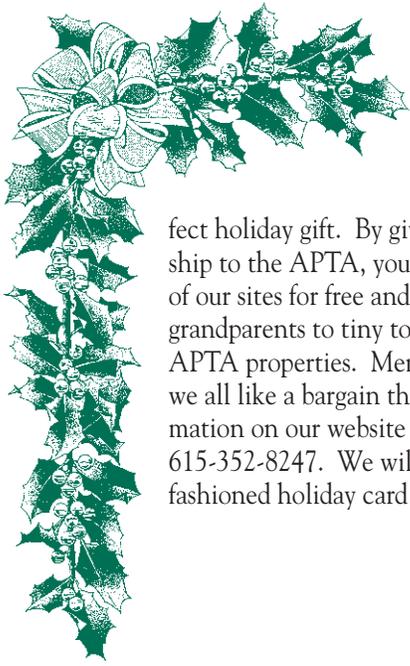
In their leisure moments, they carded the strands, boiled to cleanse and sterilize them, and began to create art objects! They crocheted them with very fine wire to create many easily recognizable flowers that they exchanged with friends and relatives and sent to loved ones living far away. These were incorporated into family wreaths and framed under glass. What a poignant way to recall those with whom they might not be reunited in life. Beyond the flowers, the ladies created jewelry from their hair. The hair would then be plaited over wax beads, over knitting or crochet needles and braided into long chains. Then these pieces would be slipped off their frames, taken to a jeweler who would fit them with gold connections to become earrings, brooches, and watch fobs.



Be Sure to Renew

Have you renewed your APTA membership? Our properties depend on the generosity of our members for support, and in return they offer their communities and visitors to our state a chance to relive Tennessee history. If you haven't renewed your membership, please do so today. So many fun and interesting events are happening, you don't want to miss them. The next time you renew your APTA membership, please remember to include your email address.

Special events at our properties can be found on our website:
www.theapta.org



Why not give a gift that someone can enjoy all year and help to preserve Tennessee's culture heritage?

A membership in the APTA is a perfect holiday gift. By giving your friends and family a membership to the APTA, you give them the opportunity to visit each of our sites for free and get 10% off in the gift shops. From grandparents to tiny tots, there's something for everyone at the APTA properties. Membership in the APTA is a bargain, and we all like a bargain these days. You can find membership information on our website at www.thapta.org or call our office at 615-352-8247. We will send your membership cards in an old-fashioned holiday card with your name.



Membership Levels

Individual	\$25
Family	\$40
Supporting	\$100
Corporate	\$250

Mission Statement
 The Association for the Preservation of Tennessee Antiquities (APTA) promotes and encourages active participation in the preservation of Tennessee's rich historic, cultural, architectural and archaeological heritage through restoration, education, advocacy and statewide cooperation.

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