



# News

*The oldest statewide historic preservation organization in Tennessee*

ASSOCIATION FOR THE PRESERVATION OF TENNESSEE ANTIQUITIES

FALL/WINTER 2013

## Preserving Evidence

*Matthew Colin Bailey, Director of Preservation, Belle Meade Plantation*

All around us exists evidence of the past. We are able to methodically piece together a comprehensive history of our buildings, our landscapes and our culture by using this evidence. However, this can only be accomplished if there exists enough remaining evidence to do so. If our charge as preservationists continues to be to protect the evidence of our past, we will be able to interpret historic sites far into the future and to an extent beyond what our current technology allows today. As a result of preserving evidence, our historic sites will lend a greater importance to the study of our culture as time moves forward.

Belle Meade Plantation was restored using evidence that remained intact from various owners and generations of family since its construction in the early 19th century. Similar to rock strata that catalog the environmental changes of the earth over millions of years, Belle Meade Plantation possesses a similar layering of periods of history in the form of overlapping renovations, decorative applications, and through materials that are distinguishable both through their composition and by the method in which they were manipulated and manufactured.

When Belle Meade Plantation was first restored during the mid 19th century, restorationists possessed a virtually undisturbed building, a blank slate, that consisted of a great deal of evidence from which to guide the restoration of the building. They eventually used this evidence to divide a first floor room, returning the space into two separate parlors. They hired an artist to apply a woodgrain effect to the building's doors based on woodgraining that was uncovered under layers of paint, and they would install replica mantelpieces inspired by a fireplace mantle that had remained in place since construction.

However, under the best of intentions, restoration has the tendency to destroy evidence. Through the process of restoration and regular maintenance, preservationists and restorationists alike must remain vigilant in their duties to maintain historic sites as places that contain a living record of past events. In the past, the restoration of Belle Meade has been sensitive to the underlying historic fabric of the site as much of the original materials, paint layers and building components remain in place. While there is a desire shared among many to have historic sites in the best cosmetic condition as possible, it is necessary to also consider that some components of such a site must be retained to better interpret a site's history, despite the component's cosmetic appearance or level of deterioration.

Preservationists must likewise protect the underlying evidence of our historic sites for future study as appreciable advancements in preservation technology become available. Recent advancements in analysis equipment and computer programs for the study of historic buildings is likely greater now than any time in our history. However, the possibility of further improvements in preservation technology are a certainty and those advancements are likely to be far greater than the techniques and equipment that we possess today. As preservationists, we must

*continued on p. 2*



## President's Message

*by Frank McMeen, APTA President*

Every now and then something tends to remind me of the rich heritage of my city of Jackson. Few are aware of Jackson being the home of M. D. Anderson. We remember him for the M. D. Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, TX but few people, even natives of Jackson, know of his deep roots here in Jackson. His body lies reposed in our historic cemetery in a very plain headstone. This unassuming man has changed the treatment of cancer and given life back to patients fighting this dreaded disease.

Today there stands a memorial that reminds us of his contributions to our world in his fair city. While it was 79 years in the making, we have chosen to honor this great man.

As I look at the 15 or so historic homes across our beautiful state, I am reminded of the many lives of great men and women who have built our state into the wonderful place we live. Cities were impacted by their lives. Businesses flourished. Families were raised. Large and small, these historic homes and buildings are part of our rich heritage.

Scattered around the state, we see post offices that brought the world to small, rural communities. Historic cemeteries where those who made were founding fathers of our cities lie in rest. Educational structures that provided generations with classical learning.

Our wonderful state is blessed with the APTA and our commitment to maintain our rich stories of greatness. APTA is historic itself. It is the oldest historical organization and began with the noblest designs.

Thank you for keeping the next generation informed and educated about our wonderful history. APTA is blessed with wonderful pieces of history; Tennessee is blessed with a wonderful organization as APTA.

Visit us at [www.theapta.org](http://www.theapta.org)

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## Executive Director's Message

by Elliott McNiel, CAE, Executive Director

The job of historic preservation will never end. We are continually creating history as we move forward in time. Over the years the number of historic properties lost in this country is mind-boggling. We'll never get them back and can only hope they live on in someone's memory. Hopefully those that remember will record the details.

This past fall I lost my best friend from grade school after a long battle with a rare disease. As I prepared to speak at her memorial service I thought about our history together. We did a lot of things, had a lot of fun and met a lot of nice people. While writing about what my friend meant to me, it occurred to me that she was the last person involved in my life who knew me as a child. Martha knew my "history." Martha had the remarkable ability to remember everything. I don't. Since I never considered myself "newsworthy," I never take the time to write down anything about myself to pass along to our daughters. Since maybe, far into the future, some great-great-grandchild will have to write an essay on an ancestor, I thought I should try to jot a few things down. Surely I could be remembered for something other than insisting my children know how to write a proper thank you note. Sitting next to Pat Boone at the premier of his movie "Journey to the Center of the Earth" when I was very young, living in France while I was in high school, and working at the Radcliff Infirmary at Oxford, the hospital where penicillin was first used on a human being, definitely doesn't make me a candidate for the Guinness Book of World Records, but it does give this future descendant a little something to write about. No matter how small, our history will be important somewhere, to someone. It is our obligation to pass it along.

The APTA is fortunate to have a diverse range of properties. We have grand houses such as Woodruff Fontaine and Glenmore, houses that show what life was like for early Tennessee settlers like the Buchanan Log House and The Pillars and buildings necessary to carry on everyday life like the post office and blacksmith shop in Arlington. The APTA has done an excellent job of preserving properties demonstrating a wide range of life in Tennessee. Every day I am grateful to our never-tiring volunteers whose love of these properties preserve them for the future as each one is as vital to telling our story as the next. Somewhere at sometime down the road, someone will want to know about these properties. Thanks to these volunteers, they'll have something to write about.

### Preserving Evidence, cont.

always leave evidence for the possibility of progressive technologies that have the abilities to better explain materials, color and construction indications in superior detail.

Historic sites that provide and retain a greater amount of evidence possess information that is highly valuable to the study of our culture. The sites that choose to retain this evidence will remain the authoritative guardians of our history and provide a valuable public service as institutions of study and learning.



The thin white line pictured provides evidence of a white coat of original wall paint buried between two plaster layers attached to a brick masonry wall.

## HARDEMAN COUNTY CHAPTER

by Ken Savage, President, Hardeman Co. Chapter

The Hardeman County Chapter, APTA Christmas open house at **The Pillars** in Bolivar, Tennessee was very successful. We joined in with the city's annual Christmas Parade this year for a Victorian Christmas. The Pillars was decorated in a modest Victorian fashion, using mostly live greenery and ribbons and bows. We like to thank all our friends near and far for supporting our chapter's Christmas drawing for the Apple iPad. Our winner was **Mandy Hatcher** of Albany, Ga.

Our chapter is already looking forward to spring and the **Hardeman County Spring Festival**. This two-day event April 26-27 will kick off the sixth season of "Music on the Square" which is held every Friday night in Bolivar through October. Our APTA chapter created this event in 2008. That weekend will also host "Relay for Life," "Cars for Kids" antique car show, amateur **Backyard BBQ contest**, APTA's **39th Annual Historic Home Tour**, and much more. We are looking forward to a large turnout, as the festival always brings thousands of visitors to town each year. Be sure to make plans to head to West Tennessee that weekend for great music, food and maybe a little history lesson in one of the most historic towns in West Tennessee.

# News from the APTA Chapters

## ARLINGTON CHAPTER

by Phyllis Kennedy, President, Arlington Chapter

The Arlington Chapter began the 2012-2013 year with its annual **Independence Day Celebration** on July 4th at Hughes-College Hill Park in Arlington. With their red, white, and blue, children walked, rode bicycles, and rode in wagons in the Children's Parade and received special treats for their participation. First, second, and third place winners received ribbons and prizes. Families dressed for the Most Patriotic Family contest. First and second place winners received special prizes donated by individuals and businesses in the community. All enjoyed music, Popsicles, face painting, and pride in our country at the event.

The **Rachel H.K. Burrow Museum** was open through the summer and fall with exhibits highlighting some of the early history of Arlington, the history of the Museum building, and a kitchen of the 1940s as well as two special displays. In October, a special dress-up in vintage clothing and photograph opportunity was held at the Museum, and our Blacksmith Shop was open with demonstrations by Bill Perry. These two sites were also open on Arlington's **Parade Day**, with special Christmas exhibits at the Museum and blacksmithing at the Blacksmith Shop.

Our **Historic Post Office** was open on Veterans Day with a special exhibit honoring veterans. The exhibit featured military uniforms, items, many from local residents, past and current, and information for the major military conflicts of our country, and a special display honoring veterans of our community. The special display was started at our Memorial Day Service in May 2012 when veterans present were asked to sign poster boards. These boards were displayed on Veterans Day, and other veterans signed them.

Our four buildings were decorated for December. Decorations at the Rachel H.K. Burrow Museum and Historic Post Office were reminiscent of the 1940s with a theme of "It's a Wonderful Life in Arlington." Wreaths of cut greenery and banners saying "Welcome Home Troops" were used. On December 1, the inside of the Museum showcased special Christmas exhibits that followed the same theme ("Our Town" village and a 1940s lighted Christmas tree to welcome and remember soldiers). At the Harrell Farm Log Cabin, a small cedar tree stood on the porch and a wreath of magnolia leaves hung on the door. Simple wreaths decorated front and side doors of the Blacksmith Shop.

Other chapter activities for fall and winter included our fundraiser in September, an outdoor Chili Supper at the Blacksmith Shop, participation in the Town's Christmas parade with an antique car followed by walkers in period dress carrying our banner and. Our December Holiday Gathering for members and guests.

Through spring, our sites will be undergoing maintenance, cleanup, and improvements in preparation for April. In April, the APTA will present and place a marker at **The Holy Innocents Cemetery** designating it as a "historic site of significance in Tennessee." Other sites will be readied for Arlington in April with new exhibits at the Rachel H.K. Burrow Museum and Historic Post Office, blacksmithing at the Blacksmith Shop, and viewing of the interior of the **Harrell Farm Log Cabin**. All are invited to visit our sites in April and the rest of the year.

The Arlington Chapter will be sponsoring a number of events in 2013. We will host our annual **Memorial Day Service** on May 27 at the Arlington Cemetery. Our annual **Membership Breakfast** will be in June. We will feature a **Children's Parade** and a **Most Patriotic Family** contest at our annual Independence Day Celebration on July 4 at Hughes-College Hill Park. Our **Chili Supper** is being planned for September. We had an active 2012 and look forward to a busy 2013.

## BUCHANAN LOG HOUSE CHAPTER

by Lu Whitworth, President, Buchanan Log House Chapter

Our Board of Directors participated in a mini-retreat in early January to plan our 2013, and we are ready for a full year of interesting programs, events, and activities. Our first history presentation during our **Pioneer Council** will be held **Sunday, March 17** at 2:00 p.m. Our guest speaker will be Dr. Natalie Inman, Professor, Cumberland University.

In keeping with our mission which includes preservation of historic sites in the area, we are involved in the efforts to save the historic McCampbell House on Kent Street in Nashville, and to save the Buchanan's Station Cemetery located at the corner of Elm Hill Pike and Massman Drive in Nashville.

The McCampbell House was built in the very early 1800s and has family ties to the Buchanan Log House's builder, James Buchanan (1763-1841). Upon the death of the last owner of the McCampbell House, Mr. W. D. Baker, the property was willed to the Tennessee State Museum. Unfortunately, they do not want to retain the property and want to sell. The latest word is the property will be auctioned by the State of Tennessee very soon. A small group of citizens formed an informal "friends" group to work with the Buchanan Log House Chapter, APTA in raising awareness of the situation of the historic site and in raising funds to save the property. Our goal is for an historic organization to gain possession of the property and restore it to its glory.

The Buchanan's Station Cemetery is located in an industrial area of Nashville on an eight-acre tract that is now for sale. Again, an informal "friends" group has been formed to work with the Buchanan Log House Chapter, APTA to save this cemetery from being transferred to a developer for commercial/industrial businesses. The owner has agreed to donate the cemetery to Metro (Nashville) Parks & Recreation Department, with the caveat that he be provided a survey, a dollar evaluation of the cemetery site and a nice fence (not wood nor chain link) around the cemetery. Funds were raised and the survey completed, and funds are currently being raised for the fence. Appropriate steps are being taken by the appropriate individuals and Metro (being negotiated by Mr. Dick Davis who is contributing his time) for the transfer of the cemetery. We still need to raise more funds, but we are optimistic that this project will end in a success story for historical preservation in our area.



# News from the APTA Chapters

## KNOXVILLE CHAPTER

by Judy LaRose, Executive Director, Historic Ramsey House Plantation

**H**istoric Ramsey House had a year of successful events after a bit of a drought in previous years. Part was due to the economy and part was due to the need for us to become a little more aggressive in our marketing and development of the programs. We are learning how to better use the media,



develop partnerships with the other historic homes in our area, and reach out to the folks in our community who could best ensure the success of the events that we were trying to present.

**Living History Weekend** was enjoyed by many more spectators this past year. We were able to secure cannons and other artillery, cavalry, and around 100 reenactors. We are looking forward to a supper event May 4-5. Many of the same reenactors have committed to joining us again this year. We are hosting this event along with the 8th Tennessee U.S. Volunteer Infantry on the 150th anniversary of the Civil War in East Tennessee.

We had our 48th annual **Country Market** the third week in September. We had the largest one-day crowd in several years. We were also blessed with many wonderful and diverse vendors. We are working on securing more quality vendors and demonstrators to add to the folks we have invited back from last year for our upcoming market on September 21.

On March 19 we will have our **Annual Cherokee Country Club Benefit Fashion Show**. This show features some of Knoxville's finest boutiques showing off their lovely spring and summer fashions. The River Room at the club will be the center of vendor activity where our guests will find beautiful merchandise available for sale.

We are looking toward a future of making more connections with our community. We have already established a partnership with the Knox County Schools that resulted in new picnic tables and trash bins that complement the surroundings. Our former tables were destroyed by the storm five years ago when many of our large trees were destroyed.

We have successfully formed a partnership with Pellissippi State College-History Department to develop an intern program. This will surely help in our educational programming, supplying docents, and many other areas of need. We are also teaming with them to develop an Adult Education program, to be held at Ramsey House, for classes in organic and sustainable gardening. This partnership will help with the creation of a community garden at Ramsey House. We have been looking forward to establishing such a garden for some time.

We have entered into a contract to develop a new website that is sorely needed. It will be cleaner and more user friendly and should be up and running in a little more than a month.

There have been paranormal sightings reported many times over the years at Ramsey. As a result, we have decided to do an investigation with the help of Mapletree Studios to see if there is any truth to the sightings. We will be tying this to a second Haunting event that we will be having in the near future. We will be able to add our newly acquired cemetery at Lebanon at the Forks. This is the site of the burial plots of the Ramsey family as well as other area families from that period.

## MAURY COUNTY CHAPTER

by Adam Southern, President, Maury County Chapter

**T**he Athenaeum Rectory reopened February 5 after being closed since the end of December. We are greatly anticipating what the New Year will bring to the Athenaeum and our local APTA Chapter.

The year 2012 was a good one for the Athenaeum. It is hard to maintain a historic site in these economic times, but we have done, I believe, the best we can do in these circumstances. Luckily, we were able to replace the roof of the Athenaeum and do some work to the interior of the home during the year. We plan to carry these improvement projects into the New Year as we will work to restore the exterior of the home.

Another high note of the past year was our annual **Christmas Home Tour**. This was really one of the best tours in the history of the Maury County APTA. More than a dozen sites were included on this tour, including historic homes, churches, and Columbia's downtown area. Board members Kathie Fuston and Linda Gupton, along with dozens of other volunteers, worked tirelessly to make this tour a success—and it was! Work on the 2013 Home Tour is already underway.

As many know, the Athenaeum Rectory is all that is left of the once-famous Athenaeum Girls' School established by Rev. Franklin G. Smith. Before starting the Athenaeum, though, Rev. Smith was instrumental in opening the Columbia Institute, an Episcopal girls' school operating just next door to the Rectory. Smith and his family arrived in Columbia in the spring of 1833, making this the 180th anniversary of the family's arrival.



Plans are underway to commemorate this grand anniversary by celebrating the Smith family and their contributions to the history of Maury County, Tennessee throughout the year. More information will be provided on this celebration closer to spring.

Some of our annual events are coming up, including our **Appraisal Fair** on March 30 from 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. and the **Ladies' Weekend** May 3-4. For more information about any of these events, please visit our revamped website, [www.athenaeumrectory.com](http://www.athenaeumrectory.com), or give us a call at (931) 381-4822. Columbia has so many beautiful homes, several open for tours. Plan a day trip to Columbia and be sure to visit us at 808 Athenaeum Street in Columbia, Tennessee. We can also arrange for a catered lunch at the Athenaeum for larger groups. We hope to see you soon!

# News from the APTA Chapters

## MEMPHIS CHAPTER

by A. J. Northrup, *President Memphis Chapter*

Meanwhile, down by the riverside...

This past autumn was as wild and twisted as the Mighty Mississippi for us here in Memphis. However, after sorting out a few unsteady details, we still managed to maintain our dignity and presented our history-starved city with an educational and entertaining season. **"Mourning Memphis"** always brings curious out-of-towners in to see mourning rituals that have been lost in time. We continued the tradition of veiling our mansion in black and honoring the victims from the city's 1878 yellow fever epidemic. **"Haunted Happenings"** closes out the mourning period with a little help from the spirits of the mansion. In our fourth year, we brought locals and guests together for an evening of mischief and mystery.

As soon as the coffin left, the holiday trim was hung throughout the mansion. Our **Victorian Yuletide** brought us a huge increase in museum foot traffic. After mentions in local media, the news spread and we were flooded with what seemed like half the population of Memphis! We ended the year with success and a renewed interest in APTA. The New Year began with a fresh, clear focus for growth. While we still have a few hurdles ahead, our mindset is shifting to a renewed and successful chapter with endless possibilities.

Our spring season opened February 13 with **"What Folks Are Made Of."** The exhibit is fashioned after British poet laureate Robert Southey's nursery rhyme. The mansion will be divided into feminine and masculine themes bringing textile and artifact collections together to portray the genteel charm and delicate mystery of being human in the days Queen Victoria ruled. **"Southern Summers"** follows in mid-May. This annual exhibit features all things cotton. Our mansion is dressed for the long hot summer and our pace slows down considerably, depicting summer living in early 20th century Memphis and reminding us that our season's savior is a glass of sweet iced tea!

Preservation and restorative projects are ongoing, as we all know! Recently, we have repaired stained glass panels for our front door, repainted the carriage house interior, and have rehanging a chandelier in the main stairwell. Each project was necessary and important to the preservation of our beautiful home.

Fundraising continues through the spring and summer with **Mardi Gras** in February and **Speakeasy** in March. Our venue rentals for weddings will increase during the summer, and with a few civic partnerships we anticipate an increase in foot traffic inside the museum. All in all, things are looking up, down by the riverside.



## RUTHERFORD CHAPTER

by Denise Carlton, *President, Rutherford County Chapter*

At the **Winter Marking** on January 6, the Rutherford County Chapter, APTA replaced a marker at "The Corners," built in 1829 by Charles Ready, Sr. Those attending the marking were treated to a tour and reception hosted by current homeowner Karen Ford. For Rutherford County, this house traces its history and was one of the first brick houses in the county. Charles Ready, Sr. married Mary Palmer and moved in 1797 to



Sumner County, Tennessee. In 1802 he purchased, from General Griffith Rutherford, a large tract of land on the east fork of Stone's River. By 1804, he had completed a nice log cabin for his growing family near a large spring. The remains of the kiln where the slaves fired the brick in the past were found years ago located in the corner of a field across the road from the house. Charles Sr. named his home "The Corners" as it was located in the corner where two roads crossed. The original Stage Coach Road from Knoxville to Nashville, also called "The Immigrant Trail" and one of routes of the "Trail of Tears," passed by the Ready home. Andrew Jackson frequently stayed with the Readys on his way to and from Washington before and after he became President.

Colonel Ready was considered one of the wealthiest men in the county, and the furnishings in The Corners were the best of the times. Wall sconces held lighted candles, iron-stone china and silver filled cupboards. Love seats and rocking chairs were in the parlor. Four-poster and trundle beds, chests of drawers and large wardrobes were in every bedroom. The deep recessed windows in the parlor and dining room had lace curtains and a Brussels carpet was on the parlor floor. The third story was one large room, and served different purposes over the years. For a time, the house was used as an Inn for stage coach travelers; the third floor was used as an over-flow bedroom. Later, the large third story room may have been where the weaving and some other winter work were done. As local stories tell, Colonel Ready had a dream of developing the silk industry here in Tennessee. Charles secured a quantity of silk worms and planted mulberry trees all around his garden and orchard. Some of the trees are there today. The third floor during this time was used to cultivate the silk worms. The silk worms did not thrive in this climate, and after some years the project was abandoned.

When Colonel Ready died in 1859, his daughter Jane and her husband Peter Talley bought the house. During the Civil War, Mrs. Talley served dinner to Nathan Bedford Forrest and his Raiders on July 13, 1862. The original mill and other property of the Ready's was burnt or destroyed during the occupation. After 84 years, in 1886 the land owned by the Readys where The Corners was built left the family. The house has changed ownership several times, with Karen Ford is the new caretaker of this county historic treasure. Once again, this historical house will host guests and they will continue to enjoy the 1829 plantation home that Charles Ready built.

Upcoming in the spring on April 14, our chapter will be marking the 1920s historic Rutherford County Health Department building and its neighboring 1822 log home. Both buildings are on the National Register of Historic Places.

# Welcome New APTA PAL Member ORION BUILDING CORPORATION

Orion has been providing general contracting and construction management services since its incorporation in 1983. In the years that have followed, they have become a leader in the delivery of construction management services in Middle Tennessee and the Southeast.

Orion specializes in work with historically significant projects. Their experience includes the restoration of Nashville's Parthenon, Cheekwood Mansion, Belle Meade Mansion, the Robertson County Courthouse and Miss Mary Bobo's, to name just a few. Tennessee is their home and they are proud to have a role in the restoration and preservation of its heritage.



## APTA ANNUAL MEETING

Tuesday, May 21 • 10:00 a.m.

Belle Meade Plantation

Speaker: Eric Jacobson, COO and Historian, Battle of Franklin Trust

### 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](http://www.theapta.org).

**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.

ASSOCIATION FOR THE PRESERVATION

OF TENNESSEE ANTIQUITIES

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