



News

The oldest statewide historic preservation organization in Tennessee

ASSOCIATION FOR THE PRESERVATION OF TENNESSEE ANTIQUITIES

SPRING/SUMMER 2012



Past President's Message

by Bob Notestine

I am humbled. I realized at our annual meeting (my fourth as president) that this was my last membership meeting as president.

I joined the Board in 2002-2003 not knowing a thing about the APTA. I left office on June 30, 2012, being the corporate memory in the paths of so many APTA stalwarts. Many of these persons are gone and they cannot be replaced. Yet they passed on the goals and objectives of the APTA and a firm understanding of its mission to me. I cannot forget the wise counsel of Mr. Berry or Alice Allgood. Nor can I forget the advice of former APTA presidents Vic Hood and Joe Wilson. The APTA has a 61-year collective memory that must be transmitted to its new officers and board.

I realized as early as 2003 that I would be the president to implement change in the APTA. I wanted to lead it into the 21st century without disregarding the past. I wish to thank Cherrie Hall, Joan Vollmer, Grace Haribson, Maureen Pera, Gwen Stidham, and our past executive directors for instilling in me the importance of the past of the APTA. The APTA is a better organization because of these people and they must not be forgotten.

Now what about the future? When I joined the APTA there were a lot of folks who felt the APTA had seen its better days. Well, I am in a position to tell you this is not the case. We are vibrant and are postured to make a difference. I will be so bold as to state that we are the future of preservation in this state. We have re-formed the APTA to make a difference. We have a viable marking program. We operate historic sites. We are in a position to provide historic covenants to preserve historic properties. We are a historic and preservation "player."

I do not plan to fade away. I will be on the board for two more years as past president. Having said this, our president-elect Frank McMeen is in a position to really move us forward. We have a statewide board and we have quality persons filling these positions. I hope the preservation community and academic institutions take note that the APTA is strong and gaining strength. We are on the move in the preservation field. The APTA is in preservation mode

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President's Message

by Frank McMeen

I have served on the boards of many worthy nonprofits in West Tennessee and some that were statewide, but few impress me as APTA does! Over the last 50 years, APTA has led the way in preserving and educating our communities regarding the importance of preserving instead of demolishing our heritage. While the struggle has been difficult at times, the battle is a worthy one. Sometimes we wrestle with local governments and other times we push neighbors and neighborhoods as we press towards preservation.

We still have some of our original members who saw the importance of a statewide organization to lead the fight and champion our cause. As one of my former college professors called it, "We are warming our hands by fires that others have built." Across the great state of Tennessee, we have landmarks to attest to the worthy efforts of restoration and owe a great debt to these individuals.

To date we have 14 landmarks that are monuments to our leadership through the years. We have an endowment that we hope to grow so that we can serve better. In the fundraising world we say, "There are two types of organizations...struggling and endowed." We will be placing an emphasis on the endowment investments and growing this endowment.

Around our state we have community treasures that need local leadership to salvage and restore. As they have done for more than 50 years, APTA volunteers continue to fight the good fight of restoration and preservation. These precious volunteers are saving our heritage so that our children and their children can see our rich heritage.

You are to be commended for all you do in supporting APTA and its worthy mission.

Visit us at www.theapta.org

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Executive Director's Message

by Elliott McNiel, CAE, Executive Director

I have managed a diverse group of associations over my career. Each one required learning a great deal about a trade or profession and the players in a short amount of time. There was one constant in all of them though that really kept me on my toes, the Changing of the Guard. It always seemed that right when I got used to working with one board, another one came in, most often every year. With them came new energy, new ideas and new ways of doing things. I learned to listen...really listen.

For the past two years I've had the privilege of listening to and working with a very dedicated group of people on the APTA board. They never lost sight of the goal of ensuring that our historical properties were preserved for future generations and that the business of the APTA was conducted professionally. They led this association through dramatic changes with careful thought and strategic planning. They kept the APTA viable and on course.

This year the members of the APTA elected a new Board of Directors. There are faces we've seen before and there are new faces. It is an excellent group to take APTA to the next level. I'm looking forward to listening to them and working with them to help make their goals for the APTA a reality.

Past President's Message, cont.

and we are statewide in focus. We are a player. We will be innovative. We will be resourceful. We are here to stay. We will continue to be a "player."

Thank you for letting me serve as your president. It has been a wonderful journey. As I leave office I only ask two things of you. Take pride in the APTA and support it. It has much to accomplish. We will be the preservation leader in Tennessee and I suspect that in 2051 the APTA will celebrate its centennial as the premier preservation organization in this state. We must move forward, we must be decisive, and we must become a leader. Our founders in 1951 expected no less. We must fulfill their expectations!

News from the APTA Chapters

RUTHERFORD COUNTY CHAPTER

Denise Carlton, President

The Rutherford County Chapter of the APTA celebrated its 60th anniversary of being the first chapter to be installed in 1952, by the then one-year-old APTA. Our Chapter Board of Directors and the Oaklands Association Board of Directors joined together on July 29 for a celebration and annual meeting of the Rutherford Chapter of the APTA. During the day members of the Rutherford County Chapter placed an APTA marker at the Oaklands Historic House Museum. The event featured the marker unveiling in front of the house museum, followed by a wine reception with period dressed guides leading tours of the mansion. The guest dinner speaker was Mr. Patrick McIntyre, President of the Tennessee Historic Commission.

In April the Rutherford County Chapter of the APTA had the pleasure of placing a marker and being hosted at a gracious reception with stories and tour by Robert and Barbara Deaton at their home at 435 E. Main Street, Murfreesboro. The day began with an unveiling of the marker at the 1898 house built for J. T. Rather, former Mayor of Murfreesboro. The house is the only Richardsonian Romanesque residence in the county.

News from the APTA Chapters

ARLINGTON CHAPTER

Phyllis Kennedy - President

The Arlington Chapter has been busy with maintenance, cleanup, and improvements at our sites. At the Rachel H.K. Burrow Museum, the exterior and interior were cleaned and painted, and exhibits were restructured. The Museum was reopened for Arlington in April with a refreshed look. Exhibits featured the history of the building, some of the Town's history, dresses from the wedding of Mabel Williams Hughes in 1914, and the progression of photography over time. Work on the vault as well as current and future exhibits continues at this site.

Maintenance, cleanup, and improvements also occurred at the Holy Innocents Cemetery this spring. Headstones were repaired or leveled, dirt was added where needed, and unmarked graves were located and marked. An Eagle Scout project involving the graveyard at the Holy Innocents Cemetery was completed in April. The project involved accurately mapping the gravesites and fencing in the graveyard.

The Blacksmith Shop and Historic Post Office also opened for the Town's Arlington in April event. Bill Perry gave Blacksmithing demonstrations. The Historic Post Office showcased its history, the Town's 1976 Bicentennial Celebration, and the history of Arlington in April and our Chapter's role in the history of the event.

The Arlington Chapter hosted our annual Memorial Day Service at the Arlington Cemetery as well as a 4th of July Celebration featuring a Children's Parade and a Most Patriotic Family contest.

The Blacksmith Shop will be open again on October 20 and December 1, 2012, with blacksmithing demonstrations. The Historic Post Office will be open for the Veteran's Day Ceremony in November 2012 with an exhibit honoring veterans. The Blacksmith Shop and Historic Post Office also are open by appointment.



Blacksmith Shop

BUCHANAN LOG HOUSE CHAPTER

Joe Cathey and Sue Sutton

The Buchanan Log House hosted an Open House on Sunday, June 10. Greeters in period dress welcomed guests and members with punch and cake celebrating the 60th anniversary of the APTA. Visitors to the property were invited to tour a display of James Buchanan's footprints throughout his Donelson community and the neighboring sites.

Clearly, May was a very active month for the Buchanan Log House with several gatherings. Over 160 Donelson and Hermitage residents attended our annual Silent Auction and Fish Fry. While enjoying some really fine Mississippi-raised catfish, these Ictalurus connoisseurs were entertained by the Nashville Ole Time String Band who played traditional mountain and country music. The Red Hatters met at the Buchanan Log House for an informal luncheon in early May. The group had a grand time visiting, carrying out business, and enjoying beautiful dulcimer music provided by the Grand Old Dulcimer Club. Also during the month, the Buchanan Log House was the featured nonprofit at Picture This Creative Framing and Gallery, for the launch of celebrated artist Phil Ponder's Christmas Ornament Series 2012. Closing out the month was the Antique Appraisal Fair and the Dulcimer Day Picnic. Both of these activities were well attended and the Buchanan Log House was proud to have hosted both events



The Red Hatters

News from the APTA Chapters

HAMBLEN COUNTY CHAPTER

Sally Baker, President

After an extremely active 2011, the Hamblen County Chapter is off and running in 2012. The Crockett Tavern Museum opened for tours on May 1. The Hamblen County Chapter is very excited about the new billboard advertising the museum. The double billboard on Interstates I-40 and I-85 is a joint effort by the Morristown Chamber of Commerce, the Crockett Tavern and Longstreet museums. Hamblen County Chapter, APTA member Jim Clayborn portrays Davy Crockett on the billboard. Guests from seventeen states and four countries have already visited the museum. In addition to the billboards and a new color rack card, the chapter will continue its joint effort with the Chamber of Commerce to produce a video.

Happy Birthday, Davy! The evening of August 17, the museum will celebrate Davy Crockett's 226th birthday with refreshments, tours, reenactors, music and fun activities for all ages. While you're there be sure to stop by the blacksmith's forge on the property. Alex Pritchard built the forge for his Eagle Scout project.



Hamblen County Chapter Billboard

HARDEMAN COUNTY CHAPTER

Ken Savage, President & Regional Vice President

It's been a busy spring this year at The Pillars and the Little Courthouse Museum in Bolivar. The Hardeman County Chapter received a grant from the APTA Endowment Trust Fund and immediately got to work. While most of the work at the The Pillars can't be seen without crawling under the house, we did manage to spruce up the outside of the three buildings on the property as well. We have done a lot of painting and cleaning and all the buildings got new roofs, too. All the visual work was completed before our APTA Annual Historic Tour May 5-6.

I know every APTA site works hard to keep their buildings and grounds preserved so visitors will appreciate them and learn from their visits. As members of APTA, it is free for us to visit every one of the 14 sites APTA operates, so when was the last time you visited another site other than the one closest to you? It is just as important to visit and support other sites as it is to support your "own" site. We all can learn from each other and sharing that information with your "own" site is very helpful and educational. Each time I visit another APTA site, I always come away learning more about not only their site but about a new way of doing something at our "own" site.

The Little Courthouse is opened every second and fourth Saturday from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. each month. The Pillars, the town home of settler, merchant, plantation owner and political advisor John Houston Bills, contains most of the family's original furnishings. It is open for tours by appointment or may be rented for special events. Whenever you travel to this area, please call ahead, and if possible someone will give you a special tour of your own and it's still free!

KNOXVILLE CHAPTER

Judy LaRose, Museum Administrator

We at Ramsey House have had a very busy May and June. We have hosted and booked weddings as well as enjoyed the visits of many guests from all over the country. Our guests enjoyed a better-than-ever Civil War Reenactment. All were pleased with the number of participants, horses and large artillery that were present for the event. We also had a meeting of the President and Generals in the Visitors Center. President Lincoln, Gen. Lee, Gen. Sherman and Gen. George Thomas and wives gave educational briefs on each of their personas. The seats were full both days. We thank them for promoting history.

We are proud and happy to announce that we have hired a new employee. Sandy Neveau comes to us from Colorado. She is a Civil War reenactor and a history teacher who has had experience in writing grants. How lucky can one historic home be?

We have been working on a grant from the Arts and Heritage Fund and hope to be able to be awarded our due percentage. We will also be looking into a grant so that all disabled persons who are unable to enjoy the home could enjoy a virtual tour in a kiosk with a docent (on video) narrating the tour. Along these same lines, we are making arrangements with Bill Landry to make a video of our own Dr. Charles Faulkner and his knowledge of the archaeological findings on the property and the home. We are very excited to be able to preserve this knowledge for future generations.

Ramsey House is implementing an initiative this year to build our membership by having special events for members at different levels of giving. These will include Family Picnic Days, A Wine Tasting and A Dinner With the Ramseys.

News from the APTA Chapters

MEMPHIS CHAPTER

A. J. Northrup

Warmer weather came early to the Bluff City this year. Having been blessed, we hosted our 4th annual egg hunt March 31! Neighborhood and area friends came out dressed in bright spring wares for this free family-friendly event. Games were planned and “Mr. Bunny” led an epic Easter egg hunt. A local rescue came out for the day looking for good homes for their pups. Eager puppies pined for attention in cages sprinkled around the back yard. The morning ended with fresh lemonade and cookies on the lawn, but the day had just begun!



Tables upstairs were being moved back into place and plastic eggs were being cleaned up, while down in the root cellar a second event was being prepared. Our 2nd annual spring fundraiser, SPEAKEASY, was well underway of becoming the “bee’s knees” of the city’s social calendar. Not to disappoint, we threw one heck of a party! Local photography artists hung “speakeasy/Prohibition-era” themed pieces with a portion of the proceeds donated back to WF. Guests came from all over Shelby County for this spectacular event...best part, they ALL were dolled up in vintage flapper/gangster style! We were glad to see some old friends return from last year and made plenty of new friends. The old WF really came to life that night!

Not to be outdone, we opened our summer season with another 2nd annual event on June 9. June Bugs and Juleps always brings out the eccentric and the truest Southern folks. And this year didn’t disappoint. The newly floored carriage house was decked out in a menagerie of iconic Southern photography while the mansion was available for touring the current exhibition “Southern Summers” running through August 5. The garden was filled with genteel folk lounging and sipping by a cool, gurgling fountain while taking in the magnificent scent of the ancient Southern magnolia blossoms. We signed up a few new members, took in a few extra dollars in generous donations and celebrated our common Southern spirit.

“Hot and long” doesn’t begin to describe the summer we’re having down here in Memphis. But with all the weddings and fantastic guests, we’ll be too busy to worry about it. We will deal with it just like all Southerners deal with our summers...with grace and big glass of sweet iced tea. “Southern Summers” will continue to run through August 5. Then we’ll be shutting the house up tight, draping black crepe as we fall into “Mourning Memphis” on August 15. This will mark our annual time of mourning for victims of the 1878 Yellow fever epidemic, which will include both personal and permanent house collections on display.

MEMPHIS CHAPTER

Peggy Lovell, Past President

As I wrapped up my last month of presidency of the Memphis chapter, I marveled at how much has been accomplished here. A great group of volunteers and staff have helped create a “must see” tourist stop, as well as a “memory making” venue. The addition of a full-time event planner has drastically improved our wedding program. Our fundraising events and displays have been taken to a new level. We’ve seen a drastic improvement in attendance during museum hours. Our grounds have never looked better!

Our venue displays began the year with Victorian Romance, highlighting wonderful laces and trims on our mannequins. The spring/summer exhibit, Southern Summers, featured some gorgeous gowns and other textiles all made of that famous southern cotton!

Our membership meetings provided an educational component as well as a social time. One of our meetings was held in the home of one of our Board members, who shared the history and secrets of her Victorian home built in the late 1800s, followed by a High Tea. The Cotton Museum captured our attention with a riveting speaker who truly knew “all things cotton.”

Our biggest accomplishment, however, is the new 50-year lease just recently signed with the City of Memphis! Now the challenge begins to protect our gem for another 50 years!

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.

APTA Board of Directors

The APTA is pleased to present the
2012-2014 Board of Directors.

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Glenda Baker, Jackson

Board of Trust

EAST – Frank Sparkman, Knoxville

MIDDLE – Tim Walker, Nashville

WEST – Jim Murray, Memphis



Front row: Lu Whitworth, Ken Savage, Linda Gupton, Glenda Baker.
Back row: Frank McMeen, Pat Junkin, Wayne Decker, Cecilia Franklin

Special events at our properties
can be found on our website:
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
archeological heritage through res-
toration, education, advocacy and
statewide cooperation.

**ASSOCIATION FOR THE PRESERVATION
OF TENNESSEE ANTIQUITIES**
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