



# News

*The oldest statewide historic preservation organization in Tennessee*

ASSOCIATION FOR THE PRESERVATION OF TENNESSEE ANTIQUITIES

SPRING/SUMMER 2014

## 2014 Volunteers of the Year

### West Tennessee – MRS. RUTH (CISSYE) PIERCE

Cissy Pierce, with the Hardeman County Chapter, APTA, has served as everything from president, to historian, to cook and painter. She has spent countless hours organizing tours, participating in restoration work and obtaining grants from both state and local officials. Cissy has also been responsible for bringing in special exhibits from the Smithsonian as well as the state to Hardeman County. Whether a tour for a small group or a tour and luncheon for hundreds, Cissy gets it all done. Recognizing that it takes everyone working together to make small steps into big ones, Cissy was instrumental in changing the Hardeman County Chapter from a “social club” into a chapter with direction.

### Middle Tennessee – BETSY BAYLOR

All gardeners love to get their hands dirty and Betsy Baylor is no exception. For over 12 years she could be found working tirelessly in the historic herb garden at Belle Meade Plantation. A gracious gift to the Plantation, Betsy obtained funding for the garden, created its design, and researched and collected the many herb plants to be found there. For all those years she managed and oversaw all aspects of the garden which visually enhances the Plantation property and affords an educational opportunity for visitors. While digging, weeding and clipping, Betsy personally answered questions providing a knowledgeable and welcoming voice of Belle Meade Plantation to visitors.

### East Tennessee – CLARA ALEXANDER

First elected in 1978, Clara Alexander is the longest serving board member at Ramsey House Plantation. She has served in a multitude of positions at the chapter including President, Vice President of Buildings and

*continued on p. 2*



### President's Message

*by Frank McMeen, APTA President*

Recently I was meeting with a group of leaders from a nonprofit. One of the top management of the organization vented in frustration, “No one is giving to nonprofits any more. Times are too bad.” I thought...“WHAT?!” Granted, we have been through the toughest times since the Great Depression. Granted that nonprofits have had a tough time and many donors reduced their charitable giving. BUT...a worthy cause continues to be supported...even in bad times because it is worthy of support!

Having spent more than 40 years in the nonprofit and fundraising arena, I have noticed that bad times cull out some nonprofits...but then again, good times cull out nonprofits. Nonprofits are like businesses. They succeed due to their work and their leadership. Successful businesses have leaders who are visionaries and committed to growth and success. People give to people with vision and who are loyal to a good cause. I have yet to see a worthy nonprofit with good leadership suffer in good or bad times. We choose our destiny! Leadership determines the outcomes of businesses and nonprofits.

The APTA possess the future of Tennessee's most impressive and historical buildings and artifacts. Our mission is to strengthen and build on the future for the next generation. Our goal is to provide a solid financial base of support for each facility. That is where local boards shine! They hold the responsibility of preserving and enriching their historic property. The local chapters are the true champions of APTA! Every day they go to work thinking about how to preserve and protect...promote and prosper.

Fundraising is part of what chapters must do for their property. While we might believe that no one wants to contribute, donors are there. Donors like to see our community treasures preserved. We have a wonderful responsibility. We hold the past and bring it into the future. Donors want to protect our history. Donors want to sponsor beneficial programs. Donors do believe in our cause. The simple rules of fundraising are (1) have a worthy product; (2) believe in your product; (3) ask for their support. I have never seen these simple rules fail. Universities, charities and organizations like the APTA succeed because of these simple rules.

The wonderful State of Tennessee is a better place to live, work and raise a family because of the work of the many volunteers and leaders of the APTA!  
Thank you!

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

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HARDEMAN COUNTY  
**Ken Savage**

KNOXVILLE  
**Ted Lewis**

MAURY COUNTY  
**Adam Southern**

MEMPHIS  
**A. J. Northrup**

NASHVILLE  
**TBA**

RUTHERFORD COUNTY  
**TBA**

## Board of Trust

EAST TENNESSEE  
**Frank Sparkman**

MIDDLE TENNESSEE  
**Tim Walker**

WEST TENNESSEE  
**James Murray, AIA**



## Executive Director's Message

by Elliott McNeil, CAE, Executive Director

### Don't Forget To Say Thank You

According to the APTA bylaws "Section 7: (a) Each property administered by the Association shall be operated, managed and restored by the affiliated Chapter and its officers, as identified by its Chapter Bylaws." To comply with this article the Chapter must raise funds, and I'll be the first to say, it's hard work. Even though the word is "people just want to be asked," it's not always easy for some of us to do. Creative campaigns take time and a lot of energy. There are numerous preservation organizations competing for donor dollars, not to mention all the other types of nonprofits that are out there. We just have to believe in what we're doing and ask.

This year the APTA participated in the Nashville Community Foundation's "Big Payback" campaign. I was amazed at the creative energy some groups put into their campaigns. We did get some donations, though. Not a lot, but more than we had yesterday. I was grateful. After the campaign I got several notices from the Foundation reminding me to thank my donors. I'm old school about thank you notes, so my thanks were already sent. All too often, though, I hear donors saying they sent their money, but no one bothered to say thank you. If donors do not receive some kinds of thanks, chances are they won't send money next time. So when those hard-earned donations come in, please take time to say thank you. It doesn't have to be a long, flowery note, just a simple recognition of the donation will do. State in your note too that the APTA is a 501(c)(3) organization so the donor can get credit for their contribution on their tax returns. We all need any help we can get on those! It may be just a simple thank you, but it's very important.

### Volunteers, cont. from p. 1

Grounds, Membership, and the Endowment Committee. For several years Clara has served as Chair of the Collections Committee and has become an expert on the Ramsey House Collection and its care. Clara also spends hours every year decorating the house with fresh greens, fruits and vegetables that she has collected for the Annual Candlelight Tour. Clara Alexander is a special gift to Ramsey House Plantation. Her steadfastness, dedication and willingness to help in any situation has made her a favorite of all who have the pleasure of working with her.

## APTA Board

For the 2014-2015 term we welcome several new members to the APTA Board of Directors: **Cecilia Franklin** is our new Treasurer and **A. J. Northrup** and **Tom McNeil** have been elected Members-at-Large. New Chapter presidents include **Ted Lewis** at Ramsey House, **Joanne Vest** at Glenmore and **Judy Vecchione** at Buchanan Log House. In this issue are the profiles of Ted Lewis and Tom McNeil. Other new board members will be featured in future newsletters.

**DR. TED A. LEWIS** – Ted Lewis is currently Vice President of Academic Affairs at Pellissippi State Community College. He earned a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from Texas Wesleyan University; a Master of Science in Political Science from the University of North Texas; and a Doctorate of Education in Educational Administration with a specialization in Community College Leadership, from the University of Texas at Austin.

Ted has served on several educational boards, foundations, and advisory committees and is vice president of the National Alliance of Community and Technical Colleges.

**TOM McNIEL** – Tom McNeil is a graduate of Sewanee, The University of the South and began his banking career at Commerce Union Bank (now NationsBank). While working there he graduated from The Nashville School of Law and became General Counsel in the bank's Trust Department. He is a founder, CEO and President of Union Planters Bank of Nashville (now Regions Bank). After ten years in banking, Tom began his real estate career that has included multifamily construction and management; residential and commercial property, and especially restaurant site selection.

Tom is a Tennessee Supreme Court Listed Rule 31 General/Civil Mediator. He has served on numerous professional and charitable boards.

# News from the APTA Chapters

## RUTHERFORD COUNTY CHAPTER

by Denise Carlton

The Rutherford County Chapter of the APTA held a marking, enjoyed a tour, history stories and reception in May. **“Moore Earthman Weatherford 1932”** is now featured at 820 East Main Street on one of our distinctive green and black hand-forged signs. The Mediterranean-style house with its brightly covered brick and the Mayflower metal piece on the chimney comfortably fits within the eclectic mix of house design found along the tree-lined Murfreesboro East Main Street Historic District. A few houses in this district pre-date the Civil War. These houses are so well maintained that for many it is hard to recognize the significance they represent, and our signs help with public awareness of their age.

Our first fundraising event, **“Opening the Doors to History,”** designed to revisit previously marked properties and raise funds to benefit the chapter’s “Marking History in Rutherford County” program, was held on Saturday evening, July 19. The **Southern Summer Dinner Party** at Historic Boxwood Plantation began at 5:30 with wine and fresh tastes from the garden under the aged pecan trees. Members and guests enjoyed a rare house tour and then dined among the magnolias and boxwoods on summer favorites served family style, finishing with desserts being delivered to the tables on antique cake stands. The entire evening was designed around strong Southern traditions, from the music to the food choices, all to enhance and highlight a lovely and very historic site.

## MAURY COUNTY CHAPTER

by Adam Southern

The Maury County APTA has been very busy with preparations for our annual **1861 Girls’ School** and the grand graduation ball. This was the 24th year we have held this event at the Athenaeum and we are already looking forward to next year!

After Girls’ School, several other events are in the works. First, we will be hosting a guided, nighttime tour of **Rose Hill Cemetery** in Columbia **September 19-20**. Rose Hill Cemetery is the final resting place of U.S. Senator Edward Ward Carmack, the Smiths (founders of the Athenaeum), and many other prominent figures from Maury County’s past.

We will be hosting an annual **Antebellum Yard Sale** on **Saturday, September 27**. During this Saturday event, members of the community buy booth space at the Athenaeum for \$20 to sell their wares. This event is popular with reenactors and antique dealers. We expect this to be another great event, complete with a bake sale. On **October 24-25**, we will host our yearly, very popular **Ghostly Dinner**. We bring the guests into the home while it is decorated for mourning where they will enjoy a meal similar to what would have been served in the 1860s. Then, after dessert, we begin our presentation about the mourning customs of the Antebellum South and the ghost stories of the Athenaeum and surrounding area.

We are also working on our **Homes Tour** scheduled for the first weekend in December.

I am really pleased to announce that restoration work will begin on the Athenaeum on August 4. The front façade will be dealt with first, then the wraparound porch. We hope to begin the interior repairs next year.

## HAMBLLEN COUNTY CHAPTER

by Sally Baker

The highlight of the 2013 season was the **Crockett Tavern Museum** being placed on the National Register of Historic Places on December 18, 2013. Opening for the 56th season on April 29, the museum has received visitors from 41 states and 4 foreign countries.

Crockett Tavern Museum had one of its large baskets on display at the East Tennessee History Museum in Knoxville as part of the “Woven Wood-East Tennessee Baskets, 1890-1940” exhibit. The basket was made by John Ray of Russellville, TN who lived to be 98 and was still making baskets up until his death. The Appalachian Quilt Trail blog has great info on the Crockett Tavern Museum.

We have the 4’ x 4’ Bear Paw quilt on the rear of the concession building.

The museum assisted with **“The Young Patriot’s Parade”** in downtown Morristown in May and hosted a **“Summer Supper: Dining With Davy,”** bringing over 75 adults from the area to the site in June. The museum, along with Knoxville area museums, also participated in celebrating Tennessee Statehood Day on May 31. A **Colonial Living History Day** was just completed in July as well.

The museum has been working with a home school co-op group for almost two years, conducting workshops on frontier living. In return, the students have assisted with events at the museum on several occasions. Tickets to the museum were distributed to area radio stations and the summer reading program at the Morristown-Hamblen Public Library to use as prizes for the children.

Upcoming events include **“David Crockett’s 228th Birthday Celebration”** on his real birthday, Sunday, August 17, from 2:00-5:00 p.m. The Smithsonian Museum Magazine **“Museum Live Day”** on September 27 includes free admission to the museum with the printed ticket from the magazine website.



# News from the APTA Chapters

## HARDEMAN COUNTY CHAPTER

by Ken Savage

Spring in Hardeman County was a busy time for our chapter. Our **40th Annual Historic Home Tour**, "Places in Time ~ 1824-2011," was held May 3-4. A special preview party was given one week before at the new site on our tour, the **"2011 Maxwell-Bertin House."** The home was designed by APTA charter member James Stevens. The tour recognized the 150th anniversary of the burning of Bolivar's courthouse and downtown by Union General Sturgis on May 5, 1864, and John Houston Bills' writings of the event. All nine locations, including Hardeman County's original courthouse and jail, were on tour. Civil War author Col. Tom McKenney signed books at the Courthouse.



Chapter charter member  
Mrs. Evalyn Harris

In June, we held our Member's Meeting along with a potluck supper at The Pillars. It was nice to just visit with the members and get new ideas for the future. On August 30 we will celebrate John Houston Bills' 214th birthday with a barbecue supper in his honor and invite new members to come join us.

Fall is time for festivals in Hardeman County. There will be a lot of things to see and do at the **17th Annual Ames Plantation Heritage Festival** on October 11. More than 150 folk artists, demonstrators, reenactors and musicians will provide a day of entertainment and education unlike any in the area. Tours will be going on during our **Hardeman County Music Festival**, October 17-18, too.

## RAMSEY HOUSE

by Judy LaRose, Executive Director

Historic Ramsey House is in the final stages of the sale of 9+ acres of its property to the Broadway Group. This will be of great significance to our financial standing in two ways. It will allow us to make much-needed improvements to our Visitor's Center, including an expansion that will allow us to rent out the space for private events of up to 150 guests. It will also expand the events we can do on a year-round basis that we cannot do now due to space restrictions. We will be investing the majority of the money from the sale into an investment account with the hope that the interest earned will help cover our operating expenses.

We have had the good fortune to partner with different scout troops and to benefit from their Eagle Scout projects. We are having a fire pit with benches built in an unused field, a bat house project to help alleviate our mosquito problem, new fencing that will define the front of the property, new signage and a lawn maintenance equipment shed. More scout troops have expressed an interest of conducting projects at Ramsey and we look forward to their participation.

The **Tennessee Vintage Base Ball League** had a wonderful season at Ramsey House, attracting more than 400 spectators to the games. We were able to partner with the River Rambler, an old steam engine that used our Vintage Base Ball games as a destination ride. Dr. J.G.M. Ramsey brought rail transportation to Knoxville. Admission to the games is free, but food sales have been an asset to our finances during the summer season.

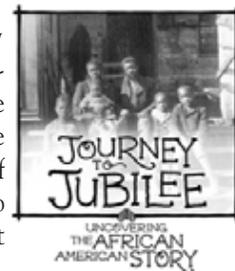
The **"Celebrate Jane Austen"** event got off to a slow start but holds the promise of a great future. Our year's agenda included many reenactors demonstrating games and crafts, a gentleman's duel, a Regency Tea and the Regency Ball. Great fun for all!

## NASHVILLE CHAPTER

On historic plantation sites across the South often only one story is told. This story is that of Master and Mistress and those who reside in the big house. Slave cabins and stories of the farm workers are oftentimes overlooked or omitted. This project will allow historians to be transparent in their scholarship as interpreters of the past and as educators to future generations of historians by providing the whole story.

Belle Meade Plantation has been open to the public as a museum for more than 61 years, and yet no true study of the lives of the more than 100 African Americans who lived and worked on this land has ever been accomplished. The Museum has a collection of more than fifty 19th century photographs of African Americans in the permanent collection, yet the majority remain unidentified. One of the goals of this project is to identify these people and gain an understanding of who they were and what they did, thus gaining a deeper understanding of the lives of African Americans at Belle Meade Plantation during the 19th century. This will allow historians to intertwine these stories with those of the Harding-Jackson family, finally shedding light on the true story that was Belle Meade Plantation.

This knowledge will be gained by collecting the oral histories of descendants of those both enslaved and free who lived and worked at Belle Meade Plantation. Historic photographs, documents and public records will be examined by scholars and all information will be compiled. This scholarship will be made available to the public and Belle Meade Plantation will become a resource for research and further study, while also serving as a public resource for those interested in researching their family history. The Museum will maintain a genealogical database of all former enslaved workers and freedmen which will also be made available to the public. A Journey to Jubilee website has been developed to document and record the project as the histories unfold, as oral histories are recorded and as unidentified faces become known. This is only the beginning of an enormous project that is sure to make a difference in not only the Interpretation of the story of Belle Meade Plantation but also that of the story of African Americans in Nashville.



# News from the APTA Chapters

## MEMPHIS CHAPTER

*“What’s up, down by the river...”*  
by A. J. Northrup

Summertime was heralded with **“Wedding Belles,”** a bi-annual display of wedding gowns from Tennessee brides. Guests were completely charmed by the collection and the stories of each bride represented. A private collection of vintage and antique glass cake plates and silver cake servers were loaned to the museum for a June 6 after-hours event...which really did “take the cake.” The museum archives opened up to showcase three wedding gowns that have been stored for nearly two decades. These rare and delicate beauties were presented to our guests in a unique “white glove” trunk showing. Under close supervision and guidance, each dress was studied and discussed personally. This opportunity gave guests an intimate experience with a few pieces from our collection. The outcome was overwhelming for most, taking away a greater respect for preservation of these priceless gifts!



Of course, the honeymoon came to an end just recently with the installation of the second vignette in our summer exhibit, **“Southern Summers.”** Wedding dresses were replaced with a collection of cool cotton dresses from the turn of the century...complete with gloves, hats, parasols, and fans! Expertly researched and staged, the collection perfectly portrays what Southern ladies of leisure would have worn during the dog days of summer. Vintage swimwear is also displayed, though there seems to be a consistent dislike of these artifacts from our guests. As one guest commented, “What in the world? With all that wool, you’d think they’d all sink to the bottom of the river!”

Summer soon ends as swiftly as it began. Our favorite season is upon us, beckoning us into the dreadful **“Mourning Memphis”** slated for mid-August. This macabre annual exhibit (tradition) draws an eerily large amount of curious guests...and is a genuine favorite! Autumn is ushered out with the 7th annual **“Haunted Happenings,”** the most chilling evening event of the year. This year’s event falls on Halloween—sure to be electrifying!

As other chapters, we have a new Board of Directors and a few new committees. This progressive Board has stepped up to the challenges that face our half-century museum with tenacious passion and an ever-constant eye on the past. Our Board recently developed a long-needed Technology Committee led by Kimbrough Henley, a 20-year veteran in corporate integrated technology, to slingshot the chapter into the 21st century. New addition Jennifer DeYoung was just employed as the museum’s administrator. Her technical and practical experience in museum studies made her an ideal candidate; we look forward to her successes. Great things are happening, down by the river!

## ARLINGTON CHAPTER

by Phyllis Kennedy

Spring activities of the Arlington Chapter began in April with a successful fundraiser—a silent auction at **“A Taste of Arlington,”** an event sponsored by the Arlington Chamber of Commerce. This was followed by Arlington’s annual **“Arlington in April”** when our sites were open for touring and activities. Visitors enjoyed Music in Arlington, Banking Over Time, and other exhibits at the Rachel H. K. Burrow Museum, postal, veterans, and train depot exhibits at the Historic Post Office, and the debut of recently acquired items (donated by Jo Ferreira of Memphis) at the Harrell Farm Log Cabin. Bill Perry demonstrated blacksmithing at the Blacksmith Shop. Other activities were a guided walking tour of The Holy Innocents Cemetery and planting cotton in our new agricultural exhibit behind the Blacksmith Shop. The new Town Guide features our Chapter and sites in the history section and is available in visitor centers and other public sites throughout Tennessee.

The Chapter participated in the **Shelby County Historical Festival** again this year. This annual event provides the opportunity not only to reach out to the public but also to interact with other history organizations. Interactions at this year’s event resulted in a special tour of our sites in May by the Tennessee Genealogical Society.

Events and activities of the Chapter continued with the annual **Memorial Day Service.** May also was the start of our monthly opening of the Rachel H. K. Burrow Museum featuring new temporary exhibits (Brides for June; Brides, Stay Cool; and 1976 Bicentennial Celebration for July; Elvis is in the Vault for August. On July 4, families enjoyed the children’s parade and small-town activities at our annual **Independence Day Celebration.** Also in July, the Chapter had an information table at the **Arlington Community Schools Celebration,** an open-house event for our new school system. During a teacher in-service day, we will be providing information about what our Chapter can offer to our teachers to use with lessons. We will set up a table at our Blacksmith Shop during **“Music on the Square”** to provide information about our Chapter to the public.

Other upcoming Chapter activities for 2014 include our outdoor **Chili Supper** fundraiser at the Blacksmith Shop on September 20, participation in Arlington’s Christmas parade and decorating our sites for the December holiday season. On November 9, the Historic Post Office will be open with an exhibit honoring veterans. In addition to its monthly opening May-October, the Rachel H. K. Burrow Museum will be open on December 6 and December 20 with a special holiday exhibit. The Blacksmith Shop will be open on October 18 and December 6 with blacksmithing demonstrations.



## Rare Murfreesboro and Tennessee Mediterranean Revival Architecture

by Denise Carlton

The Mediterranean Revival architectural style peaked in popularity in the 1920s and 1930s featuring a potpourri of influences from Spain, Italy and Portugal and other countries around the Mediterranean region. This style is recognized by multi-level tile roofs, arched windows and ornamental doorways. Nashville architect Donald Southgate was the designer and Nile Yearwood the builder, both of Nashville. The ironwork fence made by Carriage Iron Works in Nashville is original.



This home was built in 1932 by Mary Wilson Moore, the wealthy widow of Benjamin Franklin Moore of Nashville. Mr. Moore was a founder and first president of Murfreesboro Bank & Trust Co. in 1905. Built to be close to her daughter in Murfreesboro, her design choice was influenced by extensive travels in Europe. There are several furniture pieces in the house today brought back from her travels around the world. It is told that when the run on the banks occurred in Murfreesboro during the Depression, Mrs. Moore rode the train to Nashville by herself, withdrew funds, returned to Murfreesboro and deposited the money and saved the bank.

Mrs. Moore and only two generations of her family have owned the home. Her daughter, Mary and husband, U.S. Congressman Harold Earthman, became the next owners in 1957. The current owners are Mary Earthman Weatherford and her husband Jack.

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 archeological heri-  
tage through restoration, education,  
advocacy and statewide cooperation.

**ASSOCIATION FOR THE PRESERVATION**

**OF TENNESSEE ANTIQUITIES**

APTA Headquarters, Belle Meade Mansion

110 Leake Avenue

Nashville, Tennessee 37205

(615) 352-8247

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