

Metropolitan Historical Commission

Newsletter ▪ September 2013



***In This Issue:
New Historical Markers,
Civil War Lecture Series & Brochure,
Living History Tour at the City Cemetery,
Tour Two Rivers Mansion
and more...***

MHC/MHZC UPDATE

New Historical Markers!

Look for the Fehr School marker at Fifth Avenue North and Garfield Street in Salemtown:

FEHR SCHOOL

Named for local merchant and former school board member Rudolph Fehr, and designed by architects Dougherty and Gardner, Fehr School opened in 1924. On Sept. 9, 1957, Fehr became one of the first schools in Nashville to desegregate, admitting four African American first graders, who attended despite a hostile atmosphere. Some 200 protestors surrounded the school, and it received bomb threats prior to Hattie Cotton School being firebombed shortly after midnight on Sept. 10.

THE HISTORICAL COMMISSION OF METROPOLITAN NASHVILLE AND DAVIDSON
COUNTY

NO. 147

ERECTED 2013

This *double-sided* marker is located near the fire hall at 1600 Holly Street:

HOLLY STREET FIRE HALL

Completed in 1914, J.B. Richardson Engine Company No. 14 was designed by Nashville's first city architect, James B. Yeaman. Designed to blend in with the surrounding residential neighborhood, it was the first fire

hall in the city built specifically for motorized fire trucks. Except for short periods during renovations, this fire hall has been in continuous use since its construction, and was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1982.

BASS PARK

This .2-acre lot was purchased by East Nashville citizens and presented to the city on December 12, 1921 as a public park and playground. The undeveloped lot provided views of the adjacent fire hall and was intended to keep firefighters from being disturbed. Nashville's smallest park, Bass Park was named in honor of Fire Captain Herman Bass, the first captain of the fire hall.

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Ongoing! Telling Nashville's Civil War Stories

Join the Metropolitan Historical Commission and 16 area partners for the **Nashville Civil War Lecture Series**. Lectures will take place on the **third Tuesday of the month, May through October, from 4:30 to 6:00 p.m.**, at a new location each month. The lecture series offers a unique opportunity to explore the stories of Civil War Nashville in some of the city's most exquisite historic sites.

September 17 – Dr. Steve Hoskins presents “Singing the Songs of Zion: The War’s Impact on Music” at *Fort Negley Visitors Center, 1100 Fort Negley Blvd.*

October 15 – Dan Pomeroy presents “The Unionists”
Jubilee Hall, Fisk University

Lectures are free and open to the public. For more information and the full schedule, call the Historical Commission at 862-7970, visit [Civil War Sesquicentennial Events](#), or find us on [Facebook](#)!

The Nashville Civil War Lecture Series accompanies the recent release of an exciting new Civil War brochure. “**Nashville’s Civil War Stories: Common People in an Uncommon War**” tells Nashville’s Civil War story through the eyes of twelve Nashvillians who represent the many perspectives of the war and its effects on the lives of those in our city. The brochure connects these Civil War stories to 24 Civil War sites, including homes, cemeteries, churches, and schools. Along with several battlefield sites, these are the places where Nashvillians fought to survive and struggled to cope during wartime and the years of Reconstruction. Six of the featured sites will host the lecture series. Pick up your copy at any of the lectures or the partner

sites, including Sunnyside, or visit the [Historical Commission](#) website to download a copy.

The Nashville Civil War Lecture Series and “Nashville’s Civil War Stories” are made possible by a grant from the [Tennessee Civil War National Heritage Area](#). A partnership of the National Park Service, the TCWNHA is administered by the MTSU Center for Historic Preservation.

Grant partners include: Metropolitan Historical Commission • Nashville Convention and Visitor’s Bureau • Davidson County Historian Carole Bucy • Metro Parks and Recreation • Travellers Rest Plantation and Museum • Belle Meade Mansion • Belmont Mansion • Land Trust for Tennessee • Trevecca Nazarene University • Lipscomb University • Fisk University • University of the South • Tennessee Historical Commission • Tennessee State Museum • Battle of Nashville Preservation Society • Nashville City Cemetery Association • Tennessee Historical Commission

IN THE NEWS

Save the Cordell Hull!

A public petition requesting the preservation of the Cordell Hull State Office Building has come to our attention! How do you feel about the Cordell Hull?

http://petitions.moveon.org/sign/governor-haslam-save-the?source=c.fwd.in&r_by=8462961

Coming Soon! 2013 Nashville Nine

Historic Nashville, Inc. is busy making preparations for its announcement of the 2013 Nashville Nine. The Nashville Nine, an annual list of the city's nine most endangered historic properties, is intended to promote public awareness and encourage preservation advocacy at the grassroots level. Watch the Historic Nashville Facebook page for details about the announcement—coming soon this September! For more information about the Nashville Nine, please visit [Historic Nashville's website](#).

Ongoing! NashvilleNext.Net!

Work continues on a new Nashville General Plan which will provide a vision for our city’s future over the next 30 years, along with guidance for growth and development in Davidson County and much of Middle Tennessee. Called “NashvilleNext,” this is an ongoing, integrated plan for Nashville's future - and information about the plan is now available on a constantly updated webpage which includes contact information, volunteer opportunities, details of the plan in progress, and video comments from some of the many community leaders who are already part of the NashvilleNext initiative. Visit www.nashvillenext.net or find Nashville Next on Facebook for the “next” big news!

Concerned about what this means for Nashville’s historic resources? Read the [Historic Preservation Background Report](#) and the [Historic Preservation Fact Sheet](#), and [share your comments](#) about the future of historic preservation in our city.

CONFERENCES, EXHIBITS AND EVENTS

New! First Tuesday at the Archives

Tuesday, September 3—2:30 to 3:30 p.m.

Metropolitan Government Archives

3801 Green Hills Village Drive

The September meeting of “First Tuesday at the Archives” will feature a visit from President Andrew Jackson and First Lady Rachel Jackson (aka David McArdle and Melissa Gains). Sponsored by Friends of the Archives, this event is free and open to the public.

“First Tuesday at the Metro Archives” meets on the first Tuesday of the month, 2:30-3:30 p.m. Please contact the Archives at 862-5880 or ken.fieth@nashville.gov for more information, or visit the brand-new [website!](#)

New! Music at the Mansion

Saturday, September 7—7:30 to 9:30 p.m.

Two Rivers Mansion

3130 McGavock Pike

Join the Friends of Two Rivers Mansion for the conclusion of the “Music at the Mansion” live summer music series on the grounds of Two Rivers Mansion. The River Band and The Fellowship Worship Band will perform contemporary Christian music at the final outdoor concert on September 7th. The music starts at 7:30 P.M. and continues through 9:30 P.M. Grounds open at 7:00, so plan to arrive early to find a good spot. Bring your lawn chairs or blankets and sit under the stars and savor the music against the backdrop of the newly restored veranda of the Antebellum home. Rose Mary Lane’s Catering will be on site so guests can purchase summertime refreshments or pack your own basket.

Admission for each music event is \$5.00 per person or \$20 per family or car load. Admission is free for members of the Friends of Two Rivers Mansion. For more information about upcoming events and membership, visit the website at www.friendsoftworiversmansion.org or contact Events Manager Laura Carrillo at 615-862-8431 ext. 233. All events are supported by Metro Parks & Recreation.

New! Nashville City Cemetery Work Days

Interested in helping to clean up the City Cemetery? Please visit

www.thenashvillecitycemetery.org for the complete schedule of Hands On Nashville’s Clean Up Days at the Nashville City Cemetery {usually the second Saturday of the month, but subject to change}. The next work day is Saturday, September 14—9:00 to 11:00 a.m. Register through [Hands on Nashville](#).

New! History Comes to Life at the Nashville City Cemetery

Saturday, September 21—2:00 to 6:00 p.m.

Nashville City Cemetery

1001 Fourth Avenue South

Started in 1999, the Living History Tour has become a dynamic Nashville tradition designed to delight and inform the whole family. It is a wonderful opportunity to see Nashville’s past come alive as costumed characters tell their stories.

Specific historical figures who will be featured on this year’s tour include: **Lipscomb Norvell**, a Revolutionary War soldier who served under General Washington; **Frank**

Parrish, a “free man of color” who operated a barbershop on Deaderick Street; **Ann Robertson Cockrill**, James Robertson’s sister, the only woman among the early settlers to receive a land grant in her own name; **William Carroll Napier**, a “free man of color” who operated a successful hack service in Nashville; **George W. Campbell**, one of Nashville’s most distinguished citizens serving as a U.S. Senator, U.S. Representative, U.S. Secretary of the Treasury and U.S. Minister to Russia; **Mable Lewis Imes**, a member of the famed Fisk Jubilee Singers; **Thomas Crutcher**, who served 25 years as State Treasurer of Tennessee; **Lizzie Porterfield Elliott**, who authored the *Early History of Nashville*; **Mayor John Patton Erwin**, two-time Mayor of Nashville, Editor of the *Nashville Whig*, Justice of the Peace and clerk of the Tennessee House of Representatives; **Moses Wetmore**, the first person to subdivide East Nashville into lots for homes and businesses; **Powhatan Maxey**, seven-time alderman and two-time Mayor of Nashville who negotiated the purchase of Capitol Hill; **General William Carroll**, who served as Commander of the Tennessee Militia at the Battle of New Orleans and was elected Governor of Tennessee, serving 12 years, longer than any other governor; and **Wilkins Tannehill**, the first Grand Master of Masons in Tennessee, Mayor of Nashville from 1825-1826 and who founded a newspaper and a scientific journal in Nashville.

Tickets will be available in advance and can be purchased at www.2013livinghistorytour.eventbrite.com and at the entrance gate on the day of the event. Tickets are \$5 for individuals and \$10 for families. **Buyers with advance tickets will be allowed to skip the line and go on the next available tour.** That’s right! Avoid long lines by purchasing your tickets in advance! The tours will commence at 2 p.m. Each tour lasts approximately one hour. A new tour will start every 15 minutes, with the last tour beginning at 6 p.m.

Parking is available at the Nashville Sounds Stadium. Buses will provide round-trip transportation. Comfortable walking shoes are recommended.

Proceeds go to the Nashville City Cemetery Association for the continuing restoration and documentation of the cemetery. For more information, call the Metropolitan Historical Commission at 862-7970 or go to www.thenashvillecitycemetery.org.

Opened in 1822, the City Cemetery is the oldest continuously operated public cemetery in Nashville. A walk through the grounds is truly a walk through Nashville’s history. The Nashville City Cemetery is under the supervision of the Metropolitan Historical Commission and Metro Parks and Recreation. The site is open daily from 8 a. m. to 5 p.m.

The Nashville City Cemetery Association, Inc. is a non-profit organization that works to protect, preserve, restore and raise public awareness of the Nashville City Cemetery in collaboration with the Historical Commission and Board of Parks and Recreation of the Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County, Tennessee.

New! Trades Festival at Travellers Rest

Tuesday & Wednesday, September 24 & 25—9:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Travellers Rest Plantation and Museum

636 Farrell Parkway

Visit Travellers Rest for the annual Trades Festival! Step back in time and watch history come alive through the work of over thirty talented artisans and re-enactors.

Converse with a Civil War surgeon or learn the art of soap making...maybe even discover what a flintknapper does! Period demonstrators and re-enactors from civil war and frontier life will demonstrate blacksmithing, basket weaving, spinning, weaving, and more. Take your turn with thaumatropes, rolling hoops, quill pen writing, doll making, candle dipping, and corn grinding. Picnic lunches are welcome...so you can sit for a spell or visit all day! For more information, visit the [Travellers Rest website](#).

New! Historical Tours of Two Rivers Mansion

Wednesdays through October 2nd—1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Two Rivers Mansion

3130 McGavock Pike

Each Wednesday afternoon through October 2nd, visitors will have the opportunity to tour Two Rivers Mansion. \$5 for adults, \$2 for children, free for members of the Friends of Two River Mansion. Proceeds support The Friends of Two Rivers Mansion.

New! Raise the Roof: An Exhibit About Buildings

September 14, 2013 to February 16, 2014

Adventure Science Center

800 Fort Negley Blvd.

Do you have a budding historic preservationist or architect in the family? Make sure to check out this great exhibit at the Adventure Science Center, where kids of all ages can learn about building construction, the cultural influences of building design, and yes, even building demolition.

If walls could talk, what sorts of secrets, surprises, or extraordinary engineering feats would they reveal? Discover the story behind the structures humans spend 90 percent of their lives within. The *Raise the Roof* exhibit will feature buildings and building science from around the world, including a "Collapsible Dome." Other components will include a table top activity where visitors can examine and work with a variety of hand-crafted wooden joints. For more information, visit the [Adventure Science Center website](#).

The Metropolitan Historical Commission publishes this monthly newsletter to keep you informed on events and happenings at the MHC. If you have questions, comments, or news to pass along, please email scarlett.miles@nashville.gov, with E-NEWS in the subject line.

Metropolitan Historical Commission

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Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County • Karl F. Dean, Mayor