

History Gram
The Newsletter of the
Metropolitan Historical Commission



December 2014

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What's New with the MHC and MHZC?

New! Meet Our New Commissioner

On September 16, 2014, the Metropolitan Council confirmed Mayor Karl Dean's appointment of Mr. Alex Buchanan to the Metropolitan Historical Commission. Mr. Buchanan's term will expire August 10, 2018. He fills the vacancy left by the retirement of George H. Cate, Jr., who had served the Commission since 1998. Mr. Cate was the first Vice Mayor of the Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County. He has received many awards and accolades throughout his career, including the Historical Commission's 2013 Leadership Award in History.

Alex Buchanan is a native Nashvillian, having graduated from Montgomery Bell Academy. Following MBA, Alex was an English major at Vanderbilt University graduating with honors in 1975. Following college, Alex went to Vanderbilt Law School where he was a member of the *Vanderbilt Law Review*. After graduating in 1978, Alex began working at Waller Lansden Dortch & Davis where he has worked for the past 35 years. During his tenure at Waller Lansden, the firm has grown from one office with 19 lawyers to a firm with approximately 200 lawyers with offices in Nashville, Memphis, Birmingham and Austin. Alex practices principally in the financial services sector representing banks and borrowers in both public and private finance.

We extend our very best wishes to Vice Mayor Cate for a wonderful retirement and we welcome Mr. Buchanan to the Commission!

New! MHZC Needs Your Input for Old House Fair

The Historic Zoning Commission is looking for your thoughts on what companies should exhibit at the Old House this March 7, 2015. We are particularly interested in craftspeople and contractors who work with older homes. Have a great recommendation for refinishing porcelain tubs? Know just the guy to repair slate

roofing? Had a great experience with a talented landscaper? Let us know!

A primary goal of the Old House Fair is to pair owners of older properties with the people who know how to work with them, but those crafts persons and small one-person shops are sometimes hard to find. Please send the name of the crafts person or company along with any contact information you might have to robin.zeigler@nashville.gov. (Please note: exhibit space is by invitation only so once we receive your ideas a committee will decide who to invite to assure that the Fair provides a good mix of exhibitors.)

Thank you so much for your help! We look forward to receiving your recommendations.

Save the Date! Battle of Nashville Sesquicentennial Event

Saturday, December 13, 2014

City-Wide, All-Day Sesquicentennial Event

The Battle of Nashville was one of the most decisive conflicts of the Civil War. Multiple Nashville and Middle Tennessee historical groups are hard at work coordinating events to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the Battle of Nashville, which was fought in Nashville on December 15-16, 1864. Calendars should be marked for Saturday, December 13, 2014, for the multi-site, city-wide, all-day program.

Eleven Civil War historic sites in the Nashville area will host living history demonstrations with Confederate and Union reenactors and cannon firings. Several locations are organizing special exhibitions and events to mark the sesquicentennial anniversary of this important battle.

“This December marks 150 years since war struck the heart of our city,” said Nashville Mayor Karl Dean. “This anniversary provides us with an occasion to showcase Nashville’s important historic sites for our residents and visitors who may not be familiar with the rich Civil War history we have here. I am proud to see so many people working together to commemorate and interpret an important time in our nation’s history. This special programming will provide educational opportunities for all.”

Participating Historic Sites --

Living History Events: Belle Meade Mansion • Belmont Mansion • Bicentennial Mall State Park • Fort Negley • The Land Trust for Tennessee’s Glen Leven Farm • Redoubt No. 1 • Sevier Park • Shy’s Hill • Travellers Rest Plantation and Museum

Special Exhibitions: Tennessee State Library and Archives • Tennessee State Museum

There is no admission fee for exhibits and events for the following locations: Fort Negley, Bicentennial Mall State Park, Redoubt No. 1, Sevier Park, Shy’s Hill, Tennessee State Library and Archives, and the Tennessee State Museum.

A special \$30 ticket will be available for admission and for events taking place at the following locations: Belle Meade Mansion (grounds but not visiting the mansion), Belmont Mansion, The Land Trust for Tennessee’s Glen Leven Farm, and Travellers Rest. Tickets can be purchased at these locations or online at www.bonps.org.

The city-wide commemoration for the Battle of Nashville will begin at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, December 13 and conclude at sunset as cannons will be fired at various historic sites participating in the commemoration, including Sunnyside in Sevier Park.

At 4:30 p.m. on Tuesday, December 16, the actual anniversary date of the battle, Nashville churches and schools around all parts of the city will toll their bells to commemorate this historic event. All Nashville sites with working bells have been encouraged to ring their bells during this time.

The Metropolitan Historical Commission is proud to be a sponsor of this important program. For more information about activities occurring at participating sites, please call the Historical Commission at 862-7970 or visit our [website](#).

Save the Date! 2015 Nashville Conference on African-American History & Culture

Friday, February 13, 2015

Tennessee State University

Avon Williams Campus, Downtown

For over thirty years, the Metropolitan Historical Commission and Tennessee State University have celebrated the contributions of African Americans to Nashville and Tennessee through the Nashville Conference on African-American History and Culture. The 2015 conference continues this tradition, focusing on unsung heroes in Tennessee history from slavery through the 20th century. The speakers scheduled for this year include Belmont professor and noted author Dr. Sybril Bennett, and Tennessee State Historian Dr. Carroll Van West. Continuing the Conference's long-standing commitment to honoring the contributions of African-Americans to Nashville's cultural scene, the Nashville Public Library's Wishing Chair Productions will stage "Anasazi the Spider," in honor of the rich story-telling traditions of the African-American community.

New this year will be the airing of the winning student documentaries from 2014's Tennessee History Day competition. Students from Memphis and Knoxville received honors for the best Tennessee projects in African-American History, sponsored by the Nashville Conference Committee, at the 2014 competition. These will be honored for their work, and their documentaries will be screened at the conference.

Mark your calendar and make plans to join us for the 2015 conference on Friday, February 13, 2015. The conference will meet at Tennessee State University's Avon Williams Campus in downtown Nashville. Additional [conference details and registration information](#) will be available in late December at our website.

Save the Date! 2015 Old House Fair

Saturday, March 7, 2015

Sevier Park Community Center

3021 Lealand Lane

The Metropolitan Historical Commission Foundation and partners will host the 2015 Old House Fair on Saturday, March 7, 2015 at the Sevier Park Community Center, 3021 Lealand Avenue. The Old House Fair is a FREE day-long festival showcasing new ideas, practical advice, innovative materials, and quality services for homeowners to learn more about sustainable and historic products and services, and gain tips for

planning and executing residential preservation projects.

The OHF will include presentations and hand-on demonstrations, such as:

- enhancing energy efficiency
- funding your rehab
- evaluations of defining features and replacement materials
- dealing with toxic substances such as lead paint and asbestos
- repairing windows and faux painting
- children's activities

Exhibitors will include companies, retailers, and artists experienced in working with homes of many ages and styles, from Antebellum to Mid-century Modern. As always, we'll have children's activities for young preservationists and great raffle items from our exhibitors and sponsors. Need a quick snack or staying for lunch? We'll have one of Nashville's most popular food trucks on hand, too.

Sponsorship opportunities are still available. If you are interested in being a sponsor, please contact Robin Zeigler at robin.zeigler@nashville.gov or 615-862-7970 ext. 79776.

More details coming soon! In the meantime, visit our [website](#) to learn more about the 2014 Old House Fair and the great programs and exhibitors to look for in 2015.

Ongoing! Historic Home for Sale

We rarely, if ever, feature historic home listings in our monthly newsletter, but 3111 Hydes Ferry Road is a special case, so we are making an exception! If you are looking for your next preservation project, consider the Stephens House on Hydes Ferry Road. Built by the Hyde Family, this amazing antebellum home totals 2,580 sq. ft. on a lovely .98 acres. Additionally, the home is known as one of the houses used by Jesse and Frank James during their time in the Bordeaux and Jordonville communities. The owner is very interested in selling the house to a preservation-minded individual or group. The sale price is \$75,000. For more information, call Barbara Wayman at 615-293-1882. Photos are available on our [Facebook page](#) or by request. As always, MHC/MHZC staff is available to offer preservation advice and resources, such as those offered at the annual [Old House Fair](#).

Ongoing!

Love Research, Writing, and Nashville History? If so, Nashville Needs YOU!

The Metropolitan Historical Commission and Davidson County Historian, Dr. Carole Bucy, are teaming up with other Metro departments including the Mayor's Office, Information Technology Services, Metro Government Archives, and the Nashville Public Library to embark upon a comprehensive on-line ***Encyclopedia of Nashville and Davidson County***. We need your help! If you are interested in researching and writing one or more articles of approximately 500 words pertaining to people, places, or events significant in Nashville history, sign up to become a writer! Check out <http://writers.nashville.gov> for more information and the "Guidelines for Writers" -- then email encyclopedia@nashville.gov to sign up!

2015 PRESERVATION AWARDS

New! Call for Nominations: 2015 Preservation Awards

We are now accepting nominations for the 2015 Preservation Awards. We'll provide information about judging and the awards ceremony as it becomes available. In the meantime, feel free to nominate your favorite preservation project as soon as it is complete!

The deadline to submit nominations is **Friday, March 13, 2015**, so please plan accordingly. We will not extend the deadline for photographs or incomplete nomination packets.

To learn more about the awards program and to request a nomination form, please visit [Preservation Awards](#) or email scarlett.miles@nashville.gov.

AROUND TOWN

New! First Tuesday at the Metro Archives

Tuesday, December 2—2:30 to 3:30 p.m.

Metro Archives

Nashville Public Library

615 Church Street

Commons Room, Third Floor Programming Room

Join Friends of Metro Archives for its monthly "First Tuesday" event. This month, James R. Knight will discuss General John Bell Hood's last campaign in Tennessee. This presentation is in conjunction with the 150th anniversary of the battles of Franklin and Nashville. The program is free and open to the public.

James R. Knight is a graduate of Harding University, class of 1967. He spent five years as a pilot in the U.S. Air Force and thirty-one years as a pilot for Federal Express. *Hood's Tennessee Campaign* will be his fourth book for The History Press Sesquicentennial Series, the others being on the battles at Franklin and Fort Donelson in Tennessee and Pea Ridge in Arkansas.

Mr. Knight retired from Federal Express in 2004 and lives in Franklin, Tennessee, where he works part time as a historical interpreter for the Battle of Franklin Trust, giving tours of the Carter House historical site. Knight, who refers to himself as a "shade tree historian," is also the co-author, along with mapmaker Hal Jespersen, of the soon-to-be-published *Grant Rising*, a new map study of the early career of Ulysses S. Grant. He and his wife, Judy, have been married for forty-six years and have three children and six grandchildren.

New! Stones River Woman's Club Hosts Annual Christmas Open House at Two Rivers Mansion

Saturday and Sunday, December 6th and 7th

Two Rivers Mansion

3130 McGavock Pike

Two Rivers Mansion will be decorated in its holiday glory for this annual event which features a fabulous bake sale and area vendors serving up a variety of offerings for Christmas shopping and decorating. The hours are from 10:00 am until 4:00 pm on Saturday, and from 12:30 until 3:30 pm on Sunday.

Admission to the Open House is \$5.00 at the door, and refreshments will be served.

Two Rivers Mansion was completed in 1859, and remained in the McGavock family until 1965. In 1966, the mansion was purchased by the Metropolitan Govt. of Nashville and Davidson County. Since 1979, the Stones River Woman's Club has donated more than \$75,000 for restoration and redecoration projects in the mansion. Please join us for this year's Open House.

New! Historical Holiday Tours of Two Rivers Mansion

Friday-Sunday, December 12-14

Two Rivers Mansion

3130 McGavock Pike

Friends of Two Rivers Mansion will provide tours of the mansion Friday-Sunday, December 12-14, 2014. Dates and times are as follows:

Friday, December 12: 4:00 to 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, December 13: 10:0 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 14: 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Adults: \$5.00; Children: \$2.00; Free to members of the Friends group.

New! Tennessee Historical Commission Now Accepting Nominations for Certificate of Merit Program

Begun in 1975, the Tennessee Historical Commission Certificate of Merit Program recognizes exemplary work by individuals, groups, organizations, corporations, or governmental entities to further promote historic preservation or the study of history in Tennessee. The Tennessee Historical Commission presents these awards each May during National Preservation Month. The nominees must have completed the task(s) or project(s) for which the certificate is awarded by the time of nomination. Nominees may be individuals or public or private entities.

For the awards to be presented in May, the deadline for receipt of completed nomination forms and supporting documentation is December 31 of the preceding year. Thus, for example, **the deadline for tasks or projects completed in 2014 is December 31, 2014**, and awards based upon these nominations will be presented in May 2015. Nominations will be reviewed first by staff and then by a committee of Commissioners, called the Awards Committee, which committee shall present its recommendations at the February THC meeting for final decision by the entire Commission.

Absent unusual circumstances, there shall be no more than ten Historic Preservation Awards, ten Book or Public Programming Awards, and five Commissioners' Special Commendations presented each year. It is anticipated that in most years the number of awards presented in each category will be considerably smaller than the maximum. If, in the judgment of the Commission, more than one individual or entity made a significant and indispensable contribution to a task or project that is worthy of an award, the Commission may present a certificate to each such individual or entity irrespective of whether or not such individual or entity was designated as the nominee in the nomination that was submitted. All certificates that stem from a particular task or project shall count as one award for purposes of determining the number of awards being presented.

Categories: Historic Preservation Awards: Recognize the preservation, restoration, or

rehabilitation of a historic or archeological site, preservation leadership, preservation planning, publication(s) related to historic preservation, public programming, or research (including field survey activities) • Book or Public Programming Awards: Recognize notable achievements toward advancing the study of Tennessee history through certain types of books or through public programming • Commissioners' Special Commendations: Recognize achievements that relate to the promotion of historic preservation or history but do not satisfy all of the criteria for a Historic Preservation Award or a Book or Public Programming Award, as described above

To learn more about the program criteria and to request a nomination form, please contact the [Tennessee Historical Commission](#).

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
Sunnyside in Sevier Park • 3000 Granny White Pike • Nashville, Tennessee 37204 • Phone: 615.862.7970
Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County • Karl F. Dean, Mayor