

History Gram
The Newsletter of the
Metropolitan Historical Commission



November 2014

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and more...***

What's New with the MHC and MHZC?

New! Lunch and Learn at Fort Negley

Tuesday, November 11—Noon

Fort Negley Visitors Center

Join the Metropolitan Historical Commission and Fort Negley Park and Visitors Center in a belated celebration of International Archaeology Day. Dr. Shannon Chappell Hodge, associate professor with Middle Tennessee State University's Department of Sociology and Anthropology, will talk about the skeletal analysis of the human remains from the Nashville Zoo cemetery, an unmarked historic cemetery associated with the Grassmere Plantation. These individuals were thought to have been members of the enslaved community at Grassmere, and were buried between about 1820 and 1865. Skeletal analysis indicates that most of these individuals were of African descent. The talk will touch on aspects of health and disease, nutrition, and work stress among the enslaved, and DNA analyses of these remains.

Free and open to the public. Bring a lunch to enjoy during the program. Seating is limited! Please RSVP to Fort Negley at 615-862-8470.

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. Each February, Nashvillians come together to honor these individuals through historical and cultural presentations by historians, artists, students, dramatists, musicians, genealogists, and others interested in the history of our city and state. The long-running series, *Profiles of African Americans in Tennessee*, a collection of almost

two hundred short publications, makes the Conference research available to the public.

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. Look for conference details and registration information in our December newsletter.

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!

Encyclopedia Writers Meeting

Tuesday, November 18, 2:30 p.m.

Nashville Public Library, Conference Room

Encyclopedia Writers: Please make plans to join fellow members of the Nashville Encyclopedia Writers Team for hints on researching at the Tennessee State Library and Archives and a site demo of the developing Encyclopedia website. Feel free to invite anyone you know that might be interested in writing for the Encyclopedia! Email encyclopedia@nashville.gov for more information.

New! Food FIGHT!!

Did you know that 1 in 6 Americans are at risk of hunger? Let's Fight! Mayor Karl Dean and the Metro Government are proud to announce the 6th annual Metro Food Fight. We will be competing with other Metro Government Departments to see who can raise the most food and win the Mayor's Cup. **Please donate to the Metro Food Fight beginning November 3rd until November 21st at 12 p.m.** Donation bins will be located in the lobby at Sunnyside. You can also make an online donation at <http://shfbmt.convio.net/goto/metrofoodfight>. Select our department name in the drop down area at the end of the donation page. Every \$1 donated provides 5 pounds to hungry men, women and children right here in our community. The most needed items include: canned vegetables, soups, stews and fruit, canned meats (tuna and chicken), peanut butter, cereal and pasta. As the Food Bank and their Partner Agencies face unprecedented demand for food assistance, they need your support now more than ever. Let's do our part today!

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, November 4—2:30 to 3:30 p.m.

Metro Archives

Nashville Public Library

615 Church Street

West Wing, Commons Programming Room

Join Friends of Metro Archives for its monthly “First Tuesday” event. This month, Mike Bell, Curator of Furniture at the Tennessee State Museum, will discuss “First Rate and Fashionable: Handcrafted Tennessee Furniture from 1800 to the Present,” highlighting the museum’s outstanding furniture collection. Before he became a curator, Bell spent several years making handmade period furniture reproductions at Old Sturbridge Village, a living history museum in Massachusetts. This gave him an eye for recognizing handwork in antique pieces and an appreciation for backcountry interpretations of the Sheraton, Hepplewhite, and late classical furniture styles. The program is free and open to the public.

New! History of the Cumberland Lecture Series

Selected Thursdays at Noon

The River Center, Cumberland River Compact

The Bridge Building

2 Victory Avenue, Suite 300

Join the Cumberland River Compact and the Tennessee Historical Society at the River Center for the monthly educational series, “History of the Cumberland.” The series—sponsored by the Cumberland River Compact and the Tennessee Historical Society—will feature some of the Cumberland River Basin’s preeminent historians and storytellers, who will explore the rich past of the Cumberland. All lectures are free, but for \$8.00 they’ll feed you lunch. You won’t want to miss it! For more information, visit the [Cumberland River Compact](#).

Thursday, November 6—Noon

The Cumberland River, Avenue for Middle TN in the Civil War with Greg Biggs

Preeminent Civil War historian, Greg Biggs, will discuss the crucial role the Cumberland River played in the Civil War, as both an important means of transport for supplies and men, and as a boundary on the front. [RSVP](#) today!

New! 2014 Tennessee Civil War Sesquicentennial Signature Event: The Last Campaign in Tennessee

Thursday and Friday, November 13 and 14

Franklin, Tennessee

Registration is now open for [Tennessee’s 2014 Civil War Sesquicentennial Signature Event](#) which remembers the 150th anniversary of the Battle of Franklin. Titled “The Last Campaign in Tennessee,” the commemoration will take place on November 13-14, 2014 in Franklin and surrounding historic sites.

The event will feature educational symposiums, book signings, a Sesquicentennial

Civil War exhibit offering rare and unique artifacts from the Battle of Franklin, musical presentations and living history demonstrations, Confederate and Union. For details, visit <http://www.franklin150.com>.

To register for the 2014 Signature Event, email tn.civilwar150@tn.gov or call the registration line at 615-532-7520.

The Signature Event is jointly sponsored by the Tennessee Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission, Tennessee Civil War National Heritage Area, Tennessee Historical Society, Tennessee Department of Tourist Development and Franklin150.

Check out Tennessee's Civil War 150 app featuring people, places and artifacts that tell Tennessee's Civil War story. This complimentary app is available on www.tncivilwar150.com.

New!

Agents of Their Own Destiny: Race and Remembrance in a Civil War City

December 2014 marks the sesquicentennial of the Battle of Nashville. To commemorate this important event in Nashville history, Lipscomb University will host a variety of special events and activities throughout the fall, concluding with two events on November 15. Through a partnership with Historic Travellers Rest and Fisk University, Lipscomb's events will highlight not only the significant battle but also Nashville's unique Civil War history. All events are free and open to the public.

November 15, 2014

The African-American Experience in the Civil War—A Symposium at Lipscomb University

9:30 to 11:30 a.m.

Lipscomb University, Shamblin Theatre

The symposium will feature:

- James McPherson, Pulitzer Prize-winning author and retired Princeton professor, "Blueprint from Freedom: Black Men in Blue"
- Joseph Glatthaar, Stephenson Distinguished Professor of History, University of North Carolina, "Forged in Battle: The Relationship Between White Officers and Black Soldiers"
- John Baker, author and genealogy expert, "The Washingtons of Wessyngton Plantation: Stories of My Family's Journey to Freedom"

After the morning session, each presenter will be available to sign copies of their books, which will be available for sale.

A History of Fisk University in the Civil War and Reconstruction Era

2:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Fisk University

For more information, visit battleofnashville.lipscomb.edu.

New!

Lotz House to Host National Park Service Chief Historian Emeritus Ed Bearss

Franklin Battlefield Tour

Saturday and Sunday, November 29 and 30—8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

The Lotz House

1111 Columbia Avenue
Franklin, TN

In commemoration of the 150th anniversary of the Battle of Franklin held November 30, 1864, the Lotz House will host National Park Service Chief Historian Emeritus Ed Bearss in Franklin for an exclusive battlefield tour. The tour will include breakfast and transportation to each tour stop: Winstead Hill, the Eastern Flank, The Carter House and Garden and Cotton Gin Park. If the weather is inclement, the tour will continue but guests will remain on the bus. Tickets are \$100 per person and seating is limited. Reservations can be made by emailing J.T. Thompson at jtt@lotzhouse.com or by calling 615-790-7190. All proceeds benefit the Lotz House Foundation.

Historians Dinner with Ed Bearss

Saturday and Sunday, November 29 and 30—6:00 p.m.

The Lotz House Foundation and the Franklin Civil War Roundtable are partnering to host American icon Ed Bearss and seven other historians for a “Historian’s Dinner” November 29 and 30 at Eastern Flank Battle Park Hall to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the Battle of Franklin held November 30, 1864.

The evening will include a wine reception, an 1860’s period catered dinner, program led by Ed Bearss and participation by seven historians as well as a special viewing of Civil War artifacts provided by Jim Hoobler of the Tennessee State Museum.

The Franklin Civil War Roundtable is sponsoring the event which will benefit battlefield preservation, the Lotz House and the Tennessee State Museum. Tickets are \$150 per person. Tables of 9 include a historian at each table which brings the cost for eight seats to a total of \$1,200. Seating is limited and reservations can be made by emailing J.T. Thompson at jtt@lotzhouse.com or by calling 615-790-7190.

For more information about the Lotz House and future programs, visit www.lotzhouse.com.

Save the Date! Battle of Nashville Sesquicentennial Event

Saturday, December 13, 2014

City-Wide, All-Day Sesquicentennial Event

Commemorating the Battle of Nashville at All Major Historical Sites: Fort Negley • Belmont Mansion • Travellers Rest Plantation and Museum • The Land Trust for Tennessee’s Glen Leven Farm • Belle Meade Plantation • Shy’s Hill and other core battlefield sites

Living History Demonstrations: Mounted Cavalry • Union Corps Staff Headquarters • Confederate Army Headquarters • Union Signal Corps • Period Music • Battle Site Reenactments • City-wide Progressive Cannonade • Special Civil War Exhibits at the Tennessee State Museum

More information coming soon!!

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