

Metropolitan Historical Commission

Newsletter ▪ September 2014



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National Register Update,
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and more...***

What's New with the MHC and MHZC?

New! New Office Schedule

Following the lead of Development Services' One Stop Shop, the Historical Commission office has shifted its daily schedule. Office hours are now 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

New! Created Equal – Film Screening and Discussion Series

"Freedom Riders"

Saturday, September 20 through Friday, September 26

Various dates and times

Fort Negley Visitors Center and Park

1100 Fort Negley Blvd.

The Metropolitan Historical Commission in partnership with the Fort Negley Visitors' Center is delighted to be one of the recipients of a two-year grant program called *Created Equal: America's Civil Rights Struggle*.

[*Created Equal: America's Civil Rights Struggle*](#) is an initiative of the National Endowment for the Humanities that uses the power of documentary films to encourage community discussion of America's civil rights history. NEH has partnered with the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History to develop programmatic and support materials for the sites.

The MHC & Fort Negley are part of the 473 institutions across the country awarded a set of four films chronicling the history of the civil rights movement. The powerful documentaries, *The Abolitionists*, *Slavery by Another Name*, *Freedom Riders*, and *The Loving Story*, include dramatic scenes of incidents in the 150-year effort to achieve equal rights for all. Each of the films was produced with NEH support, and each tells remarkable stories of individuals who challenged the social and legal status quo of deeply rooted institutions, from slavery to segregation. *Created Equal* programs bring communities together to revisit our shared history and help bridge deep racial

and cultural divides in American civic life.

“**Freedom Riders**” will be screened at the Fort Negley Visitors Center on September 20 and 23-25, and a community discussion will take place on Friday, September 26 at 10:00 a.m.

Visit our website and Facebook page for [screening and discussion dates and times!](#)

New! State Review Board to Consider New Listings for National Register

The State Review Board will consider two Davidson County properties for the National Register of Historic Places at their meeting on September 17. These properties were presented at the August MHC meeting. The first property for consideration is the Barnes Site in Bells Bend, which is eligible for the National Register under the criteria of archaeology and as part of the Multiple Property Listing “Archaic Shell-Bearing Sites of the Middle Cumberland River Valley.” Because of the fragile nature of archaeological sites, the exact location of these sites is not available to the public, but more information about the archaeology of Bells Bend is available at the Bells Bend Outdoor Center at 4187 Old Hickory Boulevard. The second property under review is the Grand Ole Opry House at 2804 Opryland Drive in the Donelson area. Constructed in 1972-1974 by W.F. Holt & Sons, and designed by Welton Beckett & Associates, the Grand Ole Opry House is being considered under Criterion A for its significance in popular culture. The State Review Board meets at the Cloverbottom offices of the Tennessee Historical Commission, 2941 Lebanon Road. The meeting will be held September 17, beginning at 9 am. For more information, see http://www.tn.gov/environment/board_state-review.shtml.

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!

IN THE NEWS

New! 2014 Nashville Nine

Tuesday, September 23—10:00 a.m.

RCA Studio A

30 Music Square West

Historic Nashville, Inc. is busy making preparations for its announcement of the 2014 Nashville Nine. The Nashville Nine, an annual list of the city's most endangered historic properties, will include nine historic properties nominated by the public that are threatened by demolition, neglect or development. The Nashville Nine list has been one of the organization’s most effective tools for saving the places that are unique to Nashville. Over the years, Historic Nashville has successfully advocated for the

preservation of landmarks that are “unmistakably Nashville” such as the Ryman Auditorium, Union Station and the Hermitage Hotel. The work HNI does is vital to preserving the history and vitality of Nashville and is an essential part of the community.

Watch the [Historic Nashville Facebook page](#) for details about the announcement. For more information about the Nashville Nine, please visit [Historic Nashville’s website](#).

AROUND TOWN

New! First Tuesday at the Metro Archives

Tuesday, August 5—2:30 to 3:30 p.m.

Metro Archives

NEW LOCATION – Nashville Public Library

615 Church Street

Join Friends of Metro Archives for the first “First Tuesday” event at the new Metro Archives location in the Main Library downtown. Author George Spain will talk about *Come Sit with Me..and listen to stories I want you to hear*. *Come Sit with Me* includes tales about five boys who find a lost pony, a southern aristocrat whose pet owl flew freely throughout the mansion, a turkey buzzard named "Damnit" who makes a great contribution to science, and about bootleggers, cock fighters, rattlesnakes and other animals and humans well worth knowing. The program is free and open to the public.

New! September Lecture Series: Belmont Mansion During the Civil War

Belmont Mansion is hosting a September Lecture Series in commemoration of the upcoming 150th anniversary of the Battle of Nashville. The Tuesday lectures will be held at 5:30 p.m. on September 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd, and 30th. The mansion played an important role as the house and grounds were occupied by Union General Thomas J. Wood and his troops for two weeks prior to the Battle of Nashville fought on December 15 & 16, 1864. Primary source research indicates one of the rooms in the mansion was used as a chapel for the officers and soldiers. The lecture series will shed light on the intriguing history of Belmont Mansion during this watershed event in American history.

*Tuesday, September 2nd: “Union General Occupies Belmont Mansion” by Dan Lee, author of the book *Thomas J. Wood: A biography of the Union General in the Civil War**

Tuesday, September 9th: “Hymns and Patriotic Songs of the Civil War” by Dr. Steven Hoskins, Associate Professor of Religion at Trevecca Nazarene University

*Tuesday, September 16th: “Religion and the Army of Tennessee in the Civil War” by Traci Nichols-Belt, author of *Onward Southern Soldiers: Religion and the Army of Tennessee in the Civil War**

Tuesday, September 23rd: “14 Days of Waiting - The Acklen Family’s Experience of the War Prior to the Battle of Nashville” by Mark Brown, Executive Director of Belmont Mansion

Tuesday, September 30th: “Tennessee Women in the Civil War” by Dr. Antoinette van Zelm, Programs Manager for the Center for Historic Preservation at Middle Tennessee

State University; and Dr. Brenda Jackson-Abernathy, Associate Professor of History at Belmont University

The September Lecture Series is free. Please visit www.belmontmansion.com, call (615) 460-5459, or find Belmont Mansion on Facebook for more information.

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, September 4—Noon

Mark R. Cheatham - Andrew Jackson and Tennessee's Growing National Significance

Andrew Jackson was the galvanizing force behind Tennessee's increasing political relevance during the years between the War of 1812 and the Civil War, and Tennessee's friends and foes alike benefited from his national notoriety. Mark Cheatham, professor at Cumberland University, will examine the ways in which Jackson used kinship ties to further his and his friends' careers and the backlash that Old Hickory's politics created among Tennesseans. [RSVP](#) today!

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. 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.

Thursday, September 18—7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Kickoff Symposium

Travellers Rest Plantation and Museum

636 Farrell Parkway

Hear the dramatic stories of Nashville in the Civil War era when Travellers Rest hosts the Battle of Nashville Symposium on September 18th. Speakers will include Carole Bucy (Davidson County Historian), James Lee McDonough (noted Civil War historian and author) and Tonya Staggs (Travellers Rest Director of Education). Tours of the Historic House and the award – winning Civil War exhibit will be included. For reservations, contact Travellers Rest at 832-8197 or info@travellersrestplantation.org.

Tuesday, September 30—7:00 p.m., with a post-movie discussion on heroes

Film Presentation: "Glory"

Ward Hall, Lipscomb University

Winner of three Academy Awards, this 1989 film is about the first formal unit of the

U.S. Army during the Civil War to be made up entirely of African-American men, as told from the point of view of Colonel Robert Shaw, its white commanding officer.

For more information about these events and those planned for October and November, visit battleofnashville.lipscomb.edu.

Ending Soon! Lotz House Private Cellar Tours

Selected Saturdays by Appointment

The Lotz House

1111 Columbia Avenue

Franklin, TN

Be one of the first to experience The Lotz House Cellar Tour, a unique showcase of historian John Marler's two year archeological excavation. The project, completed in November 2013, uncovered approximately 900 Civil War relics and items connected with civilian life from the mid to late 1800s.

Private tours will take place on the third Saturday of each month from March through October in commemoration of the 150th Anniversary of the Battle of Franklin.

Highlights of this exclusive experience include:

- A review of the excavation process
- A first-hand look at the relics uncovered
- A description of the significance of the findings
- An interpretation of how these findings relate to a better understanding of the happenings inside the Lotz House following the historic battle

Contact J.T. Thompson at jtt@lotzhouse.com or call 615-790-7190 to reserve your place on one of the following tour dates:

September 20 | October 18

All tours will be held from 10 a.m. – noon. The cost is \$30 per person. This is a limited tour, first-come-first-served. The guided tour of the Lotz House is \$10 and is a separate ticket.

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

New! Tennessee Ancestry Library Event

Saturday, September 20—9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Sheraton Hotel

623 Union Street

The Tennessee State Library & Archives and Tennessee State Library & Archives Friends are co-sponsoring the [Tennessee Ancestry Library Event](#) with Ancestry.com. Join the Ancestry team and experts from the Tennessee Library & Archives for a day of learning and discovery. For more information, please visit www.mtgs.org, the [event registration page](#), and the [event FAQ page](#).

Many helpful sessions will be held in the days leading up to the [Tennessee Ancestry Library Event \(TALE\)](#) (September 16-19). These [pre-event lectures](#) will take place in the Tennessee State Library & Archives Auditorium. The lectures at TSLA are free but seating is limited, so [register ASAP](#). All events will be open to the public. For questions

about the pre-event lectures, contact the Tennessee State Library & Archives at reference.tsla@tn.gov or 615-741-2764.

Save the Date! History Comes to Life at the Nashville City Cemetery

Saturday, October 18—2:00 to 5:00 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. The theme for the 2014 tour is "Andrew Jackson's Friends and Foes."

Proceeds from the Living History Tour support the Nashville City Cemetery Association's continuing efforts to restore and document the cemetery. Look for more information in next month's newsletter or visit www.thenashvillecitycemetery.org for updates.

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.

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.

