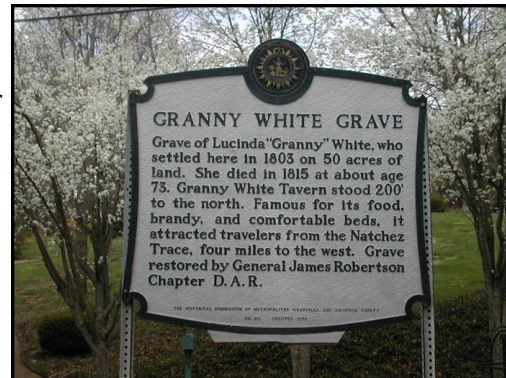


## Did You Know ... Interesting Facts About Granny White

- Lucinda White moved to Tennessee when she was 60 years old with two orphaned grandsons, Thomas and Willis, 8 and 9 years of age respectively. She was quite poor and a widow. Her grandson's called her "Granny" and soon others did too.
- Granny and the two grandsons traveled three miles a day and walked the 800 to 900 miles through Indian territory and the rugged Carolina mountains.
- Granny White Road was the first road going south from Nashville and was originally laid out by those "natural civil engineers" - the buffaloes. The pike was built in 1853. The road was named in honor of the noble woman who late in life moved to a new home in Tennessee and prospered as an inn-keeper. The inn was famous for its food, brandy, and comfortable beds,.
- The inn was half rotted by the time of the Battle of Nashville. Everett Beasley acquired the lands in 1930, and in 1942 replicated the log tavern at the same location. After 30 years the logs began to sag just as Granny's originals had. One hundred and sixty-five years after her death the property was developed into 43 residences called the Inns of Granny White, located just North of Otter Creek Road. Her fenced grave site is at the entrance.



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March 2013

Volume 15, Issue 1

# THE BUGLE



HISTORIC BRENTWOOD

The Bugle, a publication of the Brentwood Historic Commission

## "Inn Keeper Granny White Became a National Celebrity"

BY: T. VANCE LITTLE



Newcomers to Brentwood often have their curiosity piqued by the street called "Granny White Pike". They must wonder at local provinciality. They should have lived here when Church Street East was called "Hardscuffle Road", all the way to Edmondson Pike. Granny White really was a person, and she did live on Granny White Pike. There is a lot that we know about her, and a lot that we don't know, and sometimes we can't tell the difference. Granny White ran an inn, called Granny

White's Tavern, on what was called "the Middle Road" from Nashville to Franklin in the early 1800's. Her inn was said to be the best one between Louisville and New Orleans. It was a favorite stop-over for those traveling south out of Nashville.

One oft-time guest of Granny White was Thomas Hart Benton. He lived in Williamson County, but his law practice and association with Andrew Jackson and other political big wigs frequently took him to Nashville. On his way to and from he would stop at Granny White's Tavern and partake of her hospitality.

Benton got into a spat with Andrew Jackson, which is another story, as a result of which he left Tennessee for greener pastures in Missouri. He found them. He was elected to the US Senate



from Missouri and had one of the longest tenures in that body of any American Senator. He was most influential and one of the foremost political figures in American from 1825 to 1850. In a speech before the Senate, Thomas Hart Benton was pushing for legislation to give land to settlers to promote the settlement of Western lands. He used as an example of one deserving settler, his old buddy Granny White from back in Tennessee. He told of how she and two orphaned grandchildren and an old slave had come across mountains from North Carolina to Tennessee seeking a home. Benton went on to tell how some kindly benefactor gave Granny White

facing hillsides so steep that she had to prop up her pumpkins to keep them from rolling to the bottom. Through industry, diligence, and perseverance she built a home on one of the steep hillsides, in which she kept a tavern. He told of how successful she became in the accumulation of property and worldly goods. And on and on and on. All of this probably greatly exaggerated speech went into the Congressional Register, and Granny White became a national celebrity. So when you travel the Granny White Pike, slow up at the point where the valley narrows at the Inns of Granny White. You just might see the ghost of Granny White hovering over her grave on the hillside there and watch out for the pumpkins.



Williamson County Elementary School Students enjoying “A Day in 1845” at Boiling Spring Academy

To join the Brentwood Historic Society or renew your membership, please complete the following:

Membership Levels-tax deductible

___ Individual	\$ 15
___ Family	25
___ Contributing	50
___ Corporate/Benefactor	100+

Name	Address/Zip Code
Phone	Email Address

Detach this form and send, along with your check payable to:

**Brentwood Historic Society; Attention: Linda Lynch; City of Brentwood, P.O. Box 788; Brentwood, TN 37024-0788**

For more information: [www.brentwood-tn.org/aboutus/history](http://www.brentwood-tn.org/aboutus/history) or Linda Lynch, City of Brentwood, 371-0060

The Brentwood Historic Society is a citizen organization supporting the Brentwood Historic Commission, the Boiling Spring Academy School Program, and dedicated to the study and preservation of Brentwood’s history and culture.



Representing Brentwood High School were Anderson, Kimberly Eddleman, Akash Oza and Joyce Kang. Amanda Bicsak, a protégé of Bayrd, coached the Bruin team for the third year.

Ravenwood High School was represented by Jacob Berexa, Obezimnaka Boms, Matthew Hoke and Lara Scott. While AP U.S. History and Government teacher Addison Pate served as head coach, four student assistants – Jackson Polkow, Rachel Johnson, Reed Williamson and Savannah Richardson – coached their peers between rounds.

Several local business and individuals have helped underwrite the cost of the event with monetary and in-kind donations.

The Brentwood Historic Commission hopes to create a greater awareness and love of history in young people by making the “History Bowl” an exciting and fun event for the schools each year.

You can watch the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual “History Bowl” on the City’s website, [www.brentwood-tn.org/history](http://www.brentwood-tn.org/history)



*Brentwood High School History Bowl Team*



*Ravenwood High School History Bowl Team*

## Boiling Spring Academy

The Boiling Spring Academy is a restored 1830 one room school house located in Primm Historic Park on Moores Lane. The park is the site of two National Register properties: Boiling Spring Academy established as a school in 1830, and a pre-historic Native American Mound Site, 900-1500 (A.D.). The site was excavated in the 1920’s by the Smithsonian and is known as the Fewkes Site.

The Academy opened as a private school for sons of wealthy land-owners in 1832. The first teachers were male or unmarried females, with an annual salary of \$50 per year. Around 1880, the school was also used as a church and continued in use until 1918. The front door of the building was moved to its current location to give the structure a more “church like” appearance. One of the original blackboards is still located on the second floor. In 1887, the school changed from private to a Williamson County public school. By 1920,

the Primm family was using the structure for storing hay and hanging tobacco.

The Native American Mounds were home to prehistoric Native Americans of the Mississippian culture known as Mound Builders. Their homes were usually one room structures built of cane and clay. The Little Harpeth River would have supplied water for the village. By 1500, this society had disappeared from the area. It is not



known why however their village was burned. The mound builders built five ceremonial and burial mounds in what is now known as Primm Park. Today, only four mounds are still visible.

Primm Historic Park contains some of the most important historical and cultural resources in Tennessee. As urban areas grow, historical sites are

quickly disappearing. This park in particular is a microcosm of Tennessee history representing prehistoric Native American culture and education of the 1800's.

On this site, prehistoric Native Americans lived and left their mounds as relics of the Mississippian Period. Many years later pioneer settlers carved their civilization out of this wilderness. They were followed by flourishing plantations where antebellum planters educated their children in the Boiling Spring Academy which also served as a church.

In 2003 the Primm family donated the 2 acres encompassing the academy and mounds to the City of Brentwood. To protect the site, the City obtained 30 acres around the academy and mounds to buffer the site from future encroachment. This additional land also preserves the pastoral farmland along Moores Lane and provides acreage along the Little Harpeth River for the City's walking/bikeway system.

The Boiling Spring Academy, with no electricity or plumbing, opens each fall and spring to give Brentwood second grade students a chance to step back in

time. A typical school day taught by retired teachers includes penmanship, arithmetic, spelling bee, etc. The interactive program gives students, girls in pinafore skirts and boys in suspenders, an opportunity to experience "A Day in 1845".

The academy is open to the public the third Sunday of each month (April – October) from **2:00 – 4:00 p.m.** . The ***Open House Dates*** are as follows:

*April 21*  
*May 19*  
*June 16*  
*July 21*  
*August 18*  
*September 15*  
*October 20*

If you are interested in volunteering as a docent please contact Kathie Greaves at 776-2268



# 3rd Annual History Bowl: Battle of the Minds

BY: HOLLIE CUMMINGS

The "Battle of the Minds" took to the classroom on February 28th at Brentwood City Hall for the Historic Commission's 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual History Bowl.

The event featured students from Brentwood, Franklin and Ravenwood High Schools competing for the Sarah Bayrd American History Trophy. The trophy is named after the late Sarah Bayrd, a long-time Advanced Placement history teacher who inspired several generations of Brentwood students to love history. Retired News Channel 5 anchor Chris Clark moderated the event and Chuck Sherrill, Director of the Tennessee State Library and Archives and Brentwood Historic Commission member, was the game show host.

The fast paced event featured five rounds of history questions in a format similar to popular quiz shows such as Jeopardy. The fifth round being Final Jeopardy. In this round, each team could risk as little or all of their prize points as they dared. They either added that figure to their total or lost that amount depending on if they could answer the final question correctly.

A close battle was fought, but when the smoke cleared, Franklin High School won bragging rights and the trophy for the upcoming year. The winning team gets to proudly display the trophy, a 12-inch American Eagle mounted on an eight-inch base, for bragging rights until next year's bowl.



The winning team from Franklin High School included – seniors Nicole Chambers, Alyssa Hoover, Sydney Fobare and Kyle Turner. Franklin's history bowl coach was Ray Scheetz.