

Did You Know ... Information About Brentwood Historic Families Can Be Found Online?

A Community's history is made up of the stories of the people who have lived there. Thanks to the efforts of Brentwood Historian T. Vance Little, information about many early Brentwood Families has been compiled from a variety of sources.

You can find this information online at: www.brentwood-tn.org/history

Call for Antique Furnishings

The Brentwood Historic Commission invites you to consider making a contribution to the interior furnishings for the Ravenswood home located at Smith Park. In an effort to obtain period appropriate furnishings for the historic home, the following is a list of objects that we ask you to consider contributing (in good condition please):



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| Large Pier Mirror | Mirror on Stand |
| Large Dining Room Sideboard | Antique Sofa |
| Dining Room or Conference Table | Oriental Rugs |
| Chippendale or Queen Anne style chairs | Original 19 th Century Landscape Artwork |
| Demilune or Tilt Top Tables | |

Because of the nature of the Historic Commission's work and the space available for storage, during construction, unfortunately we are not able to accept all items; however, we will gladly discuss items that you feel may be of historic or functional use in the restored Ravenswood historic home. Items that are accepted by the Historic Commission will receive a gift receipt and may be eligible for tax deduction purposes.

For more information on contributing objects to the Brentwood Historic Commission's effort, please call Linda Lynch, Community Relations Director, at 615-371-0060, or e-mail us at lynchl@brentwood-tn.org

THE BUGLE



The Bugle, a publication of the Brentwood Historic Commission

“Mooreland Mansion has a Resident Ghost Named Ruth ”

From “Granny White and Her Pumpkins and Other Tales of Brentwood” By T. Vance Little

The Moore family was one of the founding families of Brentwood. James Campbell Moore and his wife Eleanor Irwin Moore came to Brentwood in 1807 to live on a land grant given to them by Mrs. Moore's father Robert Irwin, who served as a general in the Revolutionary War and received several grants for that service.

The Moore's brought their seven small children with them from North Carolina to Brentwood. Mrs. Moore rode horseback and carried the youngest child James Archer Moore, with the second youngest, Sinai Graves Moore, riding straddle behind her. The first order of business after their arrival in Brentwood was to locate their land and build a

house. The boundaries were poorly marked and a gun fight broke out with neighbors, the Sneeds. Eleanor Moore died of typhoid fever only two years after arriving in Brentwood. She was buried at Liberty Methodist Church.



The Moore's first home was on Wilson Pike. It was a two story log structure and was the first house in the area to have glass windows that would let up and down. The chimneys of the house were damaged in the earthquake of 1812 and had to be rebuilt. This earthquake formed Reel Foot Lake.

The oldest Moore son Robert Irwin Moore inherited the home place. He operated a mercantile business on the Square in Nashville

and began construction of Mooreland Man- sion in 1846. He died before it was complet-



Hugh C. Moore, Jr

ed. The house was finished under the su- pervision of his brother Alexander Moore who lived on Moores Lane and gave his name to the road. Plans were modified and the house was completed on a less grand scale than originally planned. Hence the reason for the off- center door. Original- ly plans called for matching wings on both sides.

In spite of altered plans, the house when completed contained 28 rooms, with a full basement, where house servants lived. The wood work is bird's eye maple and the metal roof came from England. The house was designed for gracious living with wide halls, large rooms and 14 foot ceilings. The 15 foot entrance hall with a winding three-story staircase is flanked by double parlors, four bedrooms, the nursery and dining room, along with connection hallways.

Hugh Campbell Moore was the third genera- tion of Moores to own Mooreland. He and his wife Kate Jones Greer Moore had three sons, Allen, Hugh Jr., and Robert. None

ever married, and all were accomplished musi- cians. Robert was organist for the Brentwood Methodist Church for over 20 years.

The one abiding interest of the Moore family was the Brentwood United Methodist Church. They donated the land on which the church was built when it stood on Church Street. They also donated a part of the land on which the Church now stands. They donated the organ in the old church. One long time Brentwood resident remembering Mrs. Kate Moore and her family said "In the old days, Mrs. Moore ran the church out of her cigar box. If the col- lection was not enough to pay the preacher, she would make up the rest."

Mooreland was sold out of the Moore family in 1944. Subsequent owners include Dr. and Mrs. Oscar Noel and Mr. and Mrs. Albert Maloney. Oh, yes, what about Ruth. She was the daughter of Robert Irwin Moore. On the eve of her wedding in the 1850's she was found dead in an upstairs bedroom. There never has been an explanation for her death. Subsequent resi- dents insist that Ruth's ghost still inhabits Mooreland, but she is reputed to be a very friendly spirit..



Robert I. Moore

The Brentwood Historic Commission

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|--|----------------------------------|
| Anne Laine Goad, Chair | Kathie Greaves |
| Tom Bain | Gil Hutchinson |
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| Arlene Cooke | Chuck Sherrill |
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| Hollie Cummings | Linda Lynch, Community Relations |
| Anne Dunn, Brentwood City Commissioner | |

We invite you to join us in our efforts to preserve Brentwood's past with a donation to the Brentwood Historic Commission. Your donation includes receipt of the Historic Commission's newsletter, The Bugle, and information regarding events and activities.

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| ___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 Commission; Attention: Linda Lynch; City of Brentwood, P.O. Box 788; Brentwood, TN 37024-0788

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

The Brentwood Historic Commission's activities include the Boiling Spring Academy School Program, the Cool Springs House, the Annual History Bowl, the Brentwood Room at the library, the Ravenswood House, Historic Markers and is dedicated to the study and preservation of Brentwood's history and culture.

BRENTWOOD BEST SELLERS

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5)

10. Murder on the Wilson Pike:
And other tales of Williamson
County

T. Vance Little

Published by JM Productions(1996)

This book contains short story accounts of the 13 different murders that occurred on a 13 mile stretch of Wilson Pike, along with information about some of the historic homes located on Wilson Pike.

11. Our Valiant Men: Soldiers and
Patriots of the Revolutionary War
Who Lived in Williamson County,
Tennessee

Louise Gillespie Lynch,

Published by Lynch, 1976

Records of the earliest Brentwood revolutionary soldiers, many of which settled on land in Brentwood, granted to them for their service in the Revolutionary War.

12. Brentwood Tennessee: a Cross-
roads of the Civil War

Joe Lassus

Published by City of Brentwood, 2002
Written by former Brentwood Planning Director Joe Lassus, this compilation is an account of the civil war activities that occurred in Brentwood from Franklin Road to Wilson Pike.

13. Williamson County: More Than
A Good Place To Live.

Rick Warwick

Published by Heritage Foundation of Franklin and Williamson County, 2005

One of the few books available on the material culture of the area written by local expert Rick Warwick. Includes photographs of Tennessee sugar chests, early woven baskets, Poynor chairs and other 19th century Williamson County objects.

14. National Register of Historic
Properties: Williamson County,
Tennessee

Rick Warwick, Mary Shearer Pearce, Jeri
M. Hasselbring

Published by Providence House Publishers, 1996

This book includes photographs, information and listings of the properties in Brentwood located on the National Historic Register through the 1996 year of publication.

15. Brentwood Tennessee: The Civil
War Years

Richard Carlton Fulcher

Published by Providence House Publishers, 1996

An account of activities in and around Brentwood during the Civil War compiled by former Brentwood genealogist Fulcher.

MOORELAND MANSION AND HOTEL CONSTRUCTION

Preservation of historic sites is always a challenge. Many people assume that rules and regulations can override the property owner’s wishes and that the sites can always be protected. This is not the case.

Having an historical designation does not guarantee legal protection to every historic site. If federal funds are to be used in the project, then some safeguards can be enforced. The Mooreland Mansion/Hotel project involved no federal funds. It is being financed privately, and there were very limited options available to the City of Brentwood to preserve this site as it is.

The existing zoning for that property allows the construction of a hotel. To build it and conform to the current setbacks, the builder could have torn down the historic home completely. The City could not legally stop this.

Knowing this, the Historic Commission, considered all options available to preserve the mansion.

The Historic Commission requested the preservation of the entire house, including the kitchen and dogtrot. However, this was not an option with the developer, so the historic board worked to save as much of the house as possible. The historic board was able to save the majority of the house, but in order for the hotel developer to construct the hotel, the dog trot and kitchen had to be removed.

The Historic Board inquired as to the possibility of moving the kitchen to another site and protecting it. They were advised by an historic architect that the bricks used were of the type that would disintegrate once it was dismantled to be moved.

The best option available was for the hotel to be built around the house, saving Mooreland Mansion from total destruction.

Brentwood History Best Sellers

BY: ASHLEY MCANULTY

Where can you go to discover and learn more about Brentwood’s history? How many times have you driven by a Brentwood historic site and wondered, “How old is that house?”, “I wonder who lived there?”, or “I wonder what important event happened there?” With a debt of gratitude to our local authors and historians, many of these questions have been answered and are available in the Vance Little Room at the Brentwood Library. Many are also available for purchase on websites like Amazon.com and Abebooks.com if you would like to build your own Brentwood history book collection.

The following are 15 Recommended Books for information about Brentwood’s historic people, places and things:

1. Gently Flows the Harpeth

T. Vance Little

Published by Panacea Press, 2009

Former City Historian Vance Little’s last published book on Brentwood history with a number of important articles, many of which were selected and updated from his prior publications. This was the culmination of his years of research and exploration of the History of Brentwood.

2. Historic Williamson County - Old Homes and Sites

Virginia McDaniel Bowman,

Published by Blue and Gray Press, Nashville, 1971
This book remains the most authoritative reference on historic homes in Williamson County with many stories of Brentwood historic homes and families. This book includes many photographs of historic sites no longer in existence.

3. The Brentwood I Remember: 1850-1950

A History of the Brentwood Community 1850 - 1950 by John M. Oden Sr.

A firsthand account of John Oden’s memories and stories about the families, businesses and churches of the Brentwood community. This book just became available in December 2012 and quickly sold out. This book includes a lot of unique information that is not covered or discussed in other publications about Brentwood.

4. Historic Brentwood

T. Vance Little

Published by Jm Productions, 1985

One of Vance Little’s earliest and most comprehensive hardbound books on Brentwood history, including the evolution from wilderness to the modern day.

Brentwood History Best Sellers

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4)

5. Chronicles of the Cumberland Settlements 1779 - 1796

Paul Clements,

Published by Paul Clements and the Foundation of William and Jennifer Frist, Nashville, TN, 2012

This recently published book is an important reference for readers interested in the history and development of Middle Tennessee and Brentwood. Years of thorough research and historical accounts shed new light on early subjects and the importance of Middle Tennessee in the development of our country.

6. The Harpeth River, A Biography

James A. Crutchfield

Published by Blue and Gray Press, Nashville, 1972

A history of the Harpeth River, a portion of which meanders through the City of Brentwood and enticed many early indian and pioneer settlers to move to the area. Out of print but available on Amazon.

7. Founding of the Cumberland Settlements, The First Atlas 1779 - 1804

Doug Drake; Jack Masters & Bill Puryear

Published by Warioto Press, 2009
An excellent resource on early pioneers that

settled in Middle Tennessee, including Brentwood, with excellent illustrations and survey research that makes this a visually exciting reference.

8. When cotton was king on Concord Road: A history of Brentwood subdivisions

T. Vance Little

Published by T. Vance Little, 1999

This paperback book is mostly about the history of 35 of Brentwood’s subdivisions, the original land grants, and some of the resident characters that have called Brentwood home.

9. Granny White and her Pumpkins, and Other Tales of Brentwood

T. Vance Little

Published by Historic Brentwood, 1993

A selection of articles about Brentwood history that appeared in the Brentwood Journal in the early 1990’s. This is Vance Little’s earliest and most difficult to acquire books about Brentwood History.