

“4th Annual History Bowl: Battle of the Minds”

BY: HOLLIE CUMMINGS

The “Battle of the Minds” took to the classroom on February 27th at Brentwood City Hall for the Brentwood Historic Commission’s 4th Annual History Bowl.

For the first time, the event was expanded to include and feature students from 6 Williamson County High Schools: Brentwood, Centennial, Franklin, Independence, Ravenwood and Summit High Schools all competing for the Sarah Bayrd American History Trophy. Chris Clark former news anchor and current MTSU adjunct professor served as host and Chuck Sherrill, Director of the Tennessee State Library and Archives and Brentwood Historic Commission member, was the questioner. The fast paced event featured five rounds of American history questions in a format similar to popular quiz shows such as Jeopardy. In the end, Summit took home the trophy. The Centennial team came in second and Brentwood in third. All of the teams did a great job and we look forward to next year’s competition.



Summit High School: Jeffrey Graves, Coach, Ryan Meares, Matt Strong, Camden McNeeley (not pictured, but in attendance, Principal, Dr. Charles Farmer)

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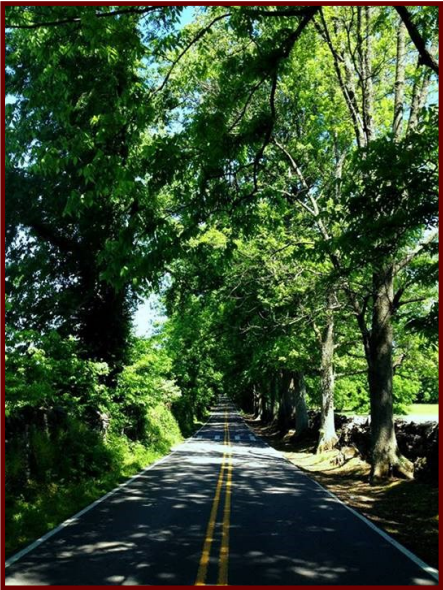
“Brentwood Historic Commission Identifies Priorities in Preservation ”

Content compiled from the following sources: publications written by Vance Little, newspaper articles written by freelance writer Diane Bartley for the Tennessean, research by Rosalie C. Batson, and articles written in Williamson County Historical Society publications

As part of the City of Brentwood 2020 update process, The Brentwood Historic Commission identified 3 areas that are a priority in regard to the preservation of history in the city of Brentwood: Old Smyrna Road, The Primm Property, and Green Pastures.

The City of Brentwood Historic Commission Mission Statement is as follows: To promote an awareness of Brentwood’s rich cultural history and heritage; enhance the quality of life through the preservation of historic sites, provide educational programs and

activities; and as a city appointed volunteer board, coordinate with the City of Brentwood and the Brentwood Planning Commission to accomplish these goals.



“Old Smyrna Road” Photo by Gil Hutchinson

1) **Old Smyrna Road:** One of the last corridors that is truly reflective of the way Brentwood looked in the 1800’s is Old Smyrna Road. Families such as the Mayfields, the Sneeds, and the Frosts built homes along the road including: Windy Hill; Sneed Acres; The Frost House, more commonly known as Cottonport; and Foxview.



James Sneed and his wife Bethenia Hardin Perkins Sneed came to Brentwood in 1798. James Sneed built the family's first home along Old Smyrna Road. The house, which is still standing, was named *Sneed Acres*. The home is a private residence and is owned and occupied by descendants of James Sneed. Nearby the family cemetery holds around 200 family graves as well as the graves of several slaves who lived and worked at Sneed Acres. The cemetery is one of the oldest family cemeteries in Brentwood.



Foxview was built by Alexander Ewing Sneed, the youngest son of James Sneed, in 1835. Like some of his brothers, Alexander got his land from his father near the old homestead. He married Elizabeth Guthrie and had twelve children. Today the home is a private residence.

Windy Hill was built by Constantine Perkins Sneed, son of James and Bethenia



Sneed, after his return from service in the War of 1812. In 1825, Constantine Sneed married to Susannah Hardeman and shortly afterward began work on the house. The bricks for the two story structure were made from clay dug out of what is now the front lawn. Today, relatively unchanged since the 1830's, Windy Hill is the home of Mr. Wilbur Sensing Jr.

The Frost House (Cottonport) was built in 1811 by John and Rhoda Miles Frost who came from South Carolina and bought the

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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.

___Individual	\$ 15
___Family	25
___Contributing	50
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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.

“The Brentwood Historic Commission, A Look Back at 2013”

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and more user friendly access. New pages were added to include information on the historic home Ravenswood and to highlight the History Bowl. A new interactive map/GIS link focuses on homes, sites and cemeteries and really provides good information on the city’s history and an easy way to identify each location.

Cemeteries

This small band of merry workers has visited over 70 cemeteries in the city limits—working in the heat of summer and the cold of winter. They determined GIS coordinates to map each one, photographed each tombstone, and made a written transcription of each. On the cemetery site you will find this data cross referenced and updated against the 3 volumes of the “Directory of Williamson County Burials.” Many stones shown on the web site will also have additional information from TN Death Records, Census Record and other such burial information.

In addition this group has been instrumental in organizing several cemetery cleanups through the Eagle Scout program.

Seminar

In a continuing effort to provide the public with research tools, we hosted a daylong seminar in November given by the Middle Tennessee Genealogical Society.

Markers

This committee has several duties with one

being maintaining an inventory of existing markers. When a marker needs replacing or refurbishing this committee gets that task done. It is very hands on with the removal and reinstallation done by the committee. Happily the majority of those have been completed. They also work with homeowners and interested parties to have sites recognized by erecting markers. This past year they worked with two groups to do this.

T. Vance Little Brentwood Room

Documents, records, newspaper clippings, journals, etc. dealing with Brentwood’s history are archived in the Brentwood Room. This provides a trove of research for those who want to know more. This committee works closely with the library staff to solicit and maintain the collection. You may have noticed some excellent historic displays in the showcases on each side of the entry to the room. This is changed out about every three or four months.

Oral and Video Histories

The many oral and video histories recorded in the past ten years are also in the Brentwood Room. That committee had the good fortune to record the recollections of two local residents who spent their early childhood years in the 1930,s at our newly acquired Ravenswood Farm.

land from the Mayfield family. Apparently this land was an Indian camping ground as the family found numerous relics and skeletons. Frost earned his title of Captain when he became a company commander during the War of 1812. The John Frost House is notable as a center of county community life for many years. The home was the focal point for the Cottonport Settlement during the 19th century, and it served not only as the Frost residence but also as the area’s post office. Adjacent to the home was a blacksmith shop and cotton gins, none of which remain. The home is still owned today by descendants of the Frost family.



2) The Primm Property:

This historic site is located along Moores Lane just off of Wilson Pike, The Owen Primm House was built by Jabez Owen, a member of the prominent Brentwood Family which had large land holdings and built several fine homes in Williamson County. The main

section of the home was built in 1845 and was an expansion of an earlier log residence built in 1806. Little is known about Jabez Owen. The earliest

Primm settler appears to have been John Primm whose will was probated in 1819. The property was sold to Thomas Primm in the early 1900’s. His sons were Jeremiah, Abraham, John Wesley,

Charles and Green H. Primm. More recently, as noted in the obituary on the *BrentwoodHomePage* website: Char-



lie McNairy Primm, a lifelong resident of Brentwood, died July 19, 2011 at the age of 88. The son of the late Thomas Perkins and Myrtle Layne Primm, he and his brothers owned and

operated one of the most successful dairy farms in Middle Tennessee. The farm, located on Moores Lane, originally included the property that is now the city’s Primm Park, where the restored Boiling Spring Academy and

several early Native American mounds are located. In a 2003 Bugle article, Joe Lassus noted that the city of Brentwood is indeed blessed by the donation of the historic Boiling Spring Academy by Edgar and Dorothy Primm. In conjunction with the new Montclair development on Moores Lane, the Primm family facilitated the transfer of this key historic resource to the community.

3) *Green Pastures aka the Turner Farm:*

Driving along Franklin Road, one cannot help but notice this beautiful property, particularly at Christmas when a mural is placed on top of the pavilion (formerly an old barn prior to the 2010 flood), a gift from the Turner family to all who drive by. The formal name of the property is Green Pastures, yet most know the property today by its current owner's name, the Turner Farm. Originally named *Hadleywood*, the house was built by Denny Porterfield Hadley and his wife Elizabeth in 1840. The home stands on 200 acres of land grant inherited by Elizabeth Smith Hadley, granddaughter of Captain James Leiper. Building of the house required a year and was constructed of bricks made



by the slaves and fired in a kiln located near the home site. General Nathan Bedford Forrest's troops camped on the estate's rolling lawns after the South's crushing defeat at the Battle of Nashville. After the Battle of Nashville the house was used as a hospital. The property eventually passed out of the Hadley family and was then owned for many years by one of Nashville's wealthiest businessmen, Mason Houghland and his wife. Mason and Sarah Houghland loved horses and turned Green Pastures into a center of equine activity. Nashville's premier horse racing event, the Iroquois Steeplechase traces its roots back to Green Pastures, where the Houghlands sponsored the earliest races.

Mr. and Mrs. William Hail owned the property for several years after the Houghlands. Green Pastures was then owned for the next 33 years by Mr. and Ms. Jess Henly. Margaret Currey Henly was the daughter of successful businessman Brownlee Currey. In 1992, the estate was purchased by Mr. and Mrs. Cal Turner Jr. who added an additional 400 acres when it became available.

“The Brentwood Historic Commission, A Look Back at 2013”
by Anne Dunn

The Brentwood Historic Commission is comprised of ten appointed members from the community, one staff member and one city commissioner. Each chairs a committee to tackle the many projects undertaken by this board. We encourage history buffs to volunteer to help out on various projects by serving on a committee. We welcome community participation. Our projects are designed to achieve our goals: to educate and promote a love of history, to preserve our history and to mark our historic sites. This past year has been a productive one.

Ravenswood

Much of our focus this past year has been on the restoration of the beautiful historic Ravenswood home. The acquisition of furniture, mirrors, art and rugs has been very successful to date. The majority has been donated or loaned on a long term basis. Many long hours went into locating, viewing, negotiating, moving, inventorying and storing these items. We are tremendously excited that prior to the park's official opening in late spring, the Historic Commission will host the first event at the home. We sponsored a pre-renovation event, Rendezvous at Ravenswood, in 2011, and are eager for the public to see it in its restored glory. Stay tuned for more information on the second Rendez-

vous at Ravenswood as we determine the exact date.

Boiling Spring Academy Schools Program / Docent Program

The Boiling Spring Academy school program for second graders is in its tenth year. Over 5000 children have passed through its doors and experienced a school day from the 1850's along with an introduction to the Fewkes Site-the Native American mounds sharing Primm Historic Park with the academy.

Broadening this experience for the community at large is the docent program. The third Sunday of each month—May through October—the academy is open to the public from 2-4 with on-site docents to answer questions.

Annual History Bowl

The Sarah Bayrd American History Bowl began four years ago with two Williamson County high schools participating. This year six Williamson County high schools competed for the trophy. This has been possible because of the tremendous dedication of the teachers who serve as team coaches, the academic excellence and hard work of the students and the loyalty of our wonderful sponsors.

Historic Web Site

Visitors to our web site, www.brentwood-tn.org/history, will notice the improved look