

The Bugle

The Bugle, a publication of the Brentwood Historical Society



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-a publication of the
Brentwood Historical Society
Post Office Box 788
Brentwood, Tennessee 37024-0788

HISTORIC BRENTVALE CABIN—SITE OF OUR SUMMER EVENT

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During our visits to Crockett Park, we all pass the historic two-story log cabin known as Brentvale. Most of us have never had a chance to tour the interior of the structure, but this historic home will

BY JOE LASSUS

be opened to the membership and guests of the Brentwood Historical Society soon. Our upcoming summer social event is scheduled at Brentvale for Sunday, June 24th, and will be followed by one of the City's enjoyable outdoor concerts in the park.

...constructed of massive logs, Brentvale was intended to last several generations ..

The Brentvale event recalls the generous donation of this structure to the City of Brentwood in 1993. At that time, Larry and Janis Gatlin cooperated with Roger and Barbara Mick to facilitate the transfer of this historic home from its original location on Old Smyrna Road to Crockett Park.



BRENTVALE...(CONTINUED)

The Mick family intended to build a new home on Old Smyrna Road, but everyone wanted to also save this important historic structure. In result, the donation of the home was made a part of the sales contract. The Gatlins and the Micks were heartily commended for their tremendous donation at that time. Then Mayor Joe Sweeney wrote in a letter of thanks, “The cabin will be a constant reminder to the Brentwood citizens of your love for our city and its history.” At no cost to the city, this home was dismantled and expertly reassembled at Crockett Park.

Brentvale was originally built on Old Smyrna Road by William Templeton Sneed in 1830. Constructed of massive logs, Brentvale was intended to last several generations. William was the seventh child



of James and Bethenia Perkins Sneed. He married Elizabeth Crichlow, and they made a home for their seven children in the large cabin.

One of those children was Dr. William Joseph Sneed who became a prominent physician. While on leave from the Confederate Army during the Civil War, he paid a visit home to Brentvale but would not sleep in the family residence for fear of capture, lodging in the barn instead. The next morning Federal soldiers happened to drop by and searched the house with no result. They walked to the barn where the elder Sneed was milking the cows, and questioned the presence of any Confederate soldiers. Without looking up, Mr. Sneed stated that, “Nobody is here who doesn’t belong here.” This firm statement

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A citizen organization supporting the Brentwood Historic Commission, and dedicated to the study and preservation of the City’s history and culture.

For information and membership, contact the Brentwood Municipal Center at 371-0060, Linda Lynch, Community Relations Director, T. Vance Little, City Historian.

We’re on the web!! Go to: www.brentwood-tn.org ...click on “history” to find us!

Special Thanks.....

In our last edition of *The Bugle*, the historic Johnson Chapel Methodist Church was highlighted. Due to neighboring property owner concerns relative to the rezoning issue, the church has consented to a special historic preservation easement that will ensure maintenance of the historic structures in perpetuity. This easement quells neighbor concerns that the structures will be removed for a new and larger church. It was never the intention of the current congregation to remove the historic church or schoolhouse. We warmly thank the congregation for their cooperation in granting the easement, and preserving a most valuable historic legacy!!

Did You Know???

The beautiful old tree at the Brentwood Library is a Bur Oak (*Quercus macrocarpa*) and has reached approximately three hundred years in age. Brentwood is a “Tree City” and this Bur Oak is part of the Library Arboretum. The drought resistant Bur Oak has the largest acorns of all native oaks, making it a valuable food source for wildlife.



HISTORIC BARNs (CONTINUED)

rear was built in 1919.

As Jim related, the children’s home facility engaged its youngsters in the ongoing farming operations at the facility. The farming area provided a productive, practical outlet for the early residents of the home. Their energies actually helped sustain the home through crop production and management of a dairy herd. Jim relates that each cow was very aware of her proper milking stall, and would find her regular station without any guidance on the part of the young farmers. At one time the farming area covered

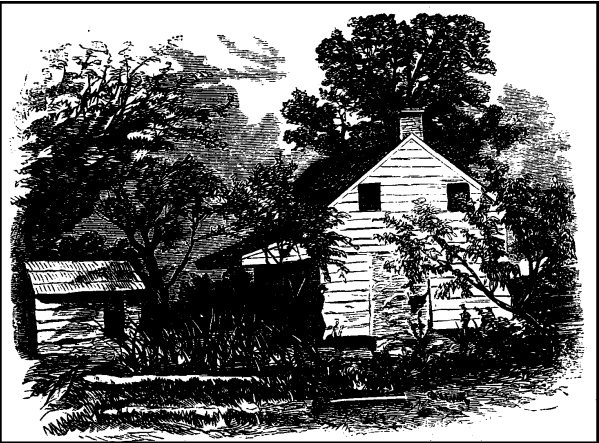


quite a large expanse of this property and extended south of Wikle Road into what is now the Brentwood South neighborhood. Eventually, the farming operation would go the way of other agricultural activities in Brentwood, passing away in the modern era. Brentwood resident Jim Murphy (photo on left) has been an invaluable resource in preserving the history of the Tennessee Baptist Children’s Home. A recent article by Vance Little dated April 4, 2007 in the *Tennessean (Brentwood Journal)* provides the interesting story of this hundred year facility, and can be reviewed at the Brentwood Room in our library.

**Join the Brentwood Historical Society
for our special summer event !!!**

**Barbeque Supper and Outdoor Concert at Crockett
Park on June 24th !!**

**Make reservations now for the social at the
Brentvale Cabin in Crockett Park!**



We look forward to seeing you again at the Brentvale Cabin for delicious barbeque followed by oldies music by the Mills Brothers. The event is slated for June 24th starting at 5 p.m. Bring your outdoor chairs and perhaps a blanket for the informal event. Reservations for your family and friends can be made for \$5 per person.

Mail your reservation check made out to the
Brentwood Historical Society to:

Brentwood Historical Society
City of Brentwood
Post Office Box 788
Brentwood TN 37024-0788

*Please mail reservation check by June 7th to allow for our
event planning*

...BRENTVALE (CONTINUED)

seemed to satisfy the patrol, and they left the farm. The house contained a large basement which also saw considerable use during the war for hiding cows, horses, and other valuables from the raiders with some success.

During the closing months of the Civil War, Dr. Sneed would make the acquaintance of a Federal Army doctor, Dr. George Whipple Hubbard, leading to a long association. It is conjectured that they worked well together tending the wounded of both sides during the final Civil War battles of Franklin and Nashville. Both doctors effectively employed and trained young black men to assist them as orderlies in these efforts.

In succeeding years, the noted wartime success with the black orderlies was carried several steps further. In an important effort to train sorely needed Negro doctors to serve the freedmen of Nashville, Dr. Hubbard achieved his dream to create a special medical school for Negro doctors. Samuel Meharry and his brothers made a significant contribution that allowed Hubbard to realize his dream. The Meharry donation



was prompted by an earlier special favor provided to the Meharry's by a local black family.

Dr. Sneed of Brentvale taught at the black medical college during the onset of the program. This was at a time when such activities were frowned upon by the white Southern community. Nonetheless, Dr. Sneed continued to assist in the effort, sharing his great expertise and knowledge at the college. Along with a few other white physicians, these doctors helped create and maintain this important facility known today as Dr. George W. Hubbard Hospital of the Meharry Medical College at Nashville, Tennessee. The devotion and generosity associated with Doctors Hubbard and Sneed will live on for years to come.

BAPTIST CHILDRENS HOME - HISTORIC BARNS
LOST TO DEVELOPMENT

BY JOE LASSUS



King's Crossing residential development. It was our mission that day to photo document these agricultural structures thereby preserving a bit of local history.

The two barns were of similar design, and were connected by an elongated, low profile cow milking enclosure (see interior photo below, and exterior photo on next page top). The barn in the foreground (left) was constructed during the 1940's while the barn to the

Recently, I spent some time with Jim Murphy learning of his boyhood experiences at the Tennessee Baptist Children's Home on Franklin Road. This facility for homeless children was founded during the early years of the 20th century through the efforts of Georgia Eastman of Nashville. Our meeting was prompted by the impending demolition of two historic barns (see photo above) on Wikle Road West to make way for the new

