

The Bugle

THE BUGLE, NAMED FOR THE FIRST NEWSPAPER IN BRENTWOOD

A publication of the Brentwood Historical Society



HISTORIC WILSON FAMILY CELEBRATED AT OUR ANNUAL CHRISTMAS "OPEN HOUSE"

BY JOE LASSUS

The Brentwood Historical Society is set to host yet another great Christmas Candlelight "Open House." This year the event will take place on Thursday, December 4th beginning at 6 PM.

The event will be highlighted by candlelight tours of two historic antebellum homes built by James Hazard Wilson, Jr. who resided at nearby Ravenswood. Living history reenactors will be on hand to relate the stories of these homes. Oak Hall and Inglehame were gifts to the Wilson sons on their respective marriages before the Civil War.

According to Vance Little, "The finest of the Wilson homes was Oak Hall...It has extraordinary interior woodwork and mantles. Its crowning glory is a three-story circular staircase that leads to the third-story ballroom. The Wilsons are said to have blindfolded their horses and led them to this ballroom, the horses' hiding place during Civil War raids."

After your tour of these historic

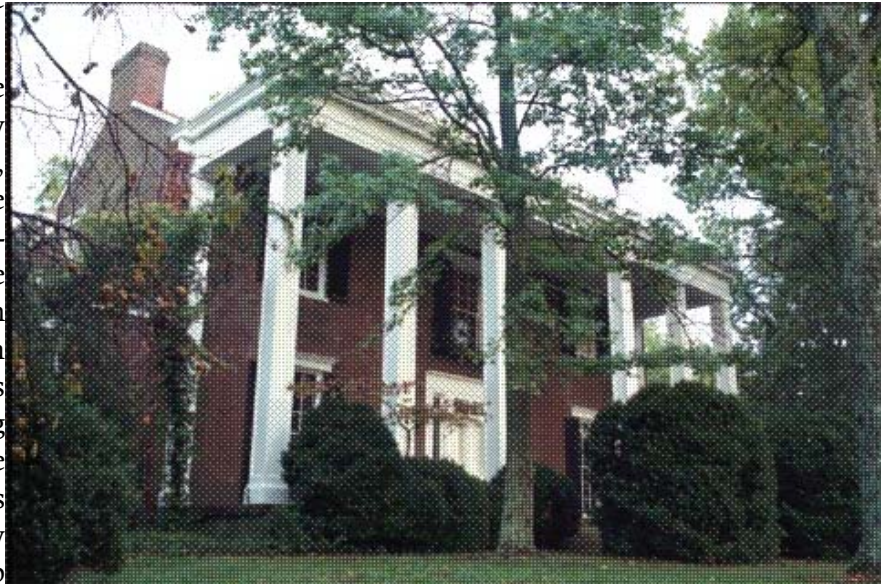
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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Christmas candlelight "open house" to highlight Oak Hall, Inglehame, and the Cool Springs House.
- Revolutionary War Soldier, David Johnston honored with historic marker.
- Preservationist Vic Hood hired by City of Brentwood to stabilize the Boiling Spring Academy structure.

Inglehame was originally known as, *Harpeth*, due to the origination of the Little Harpeth River from springs at this site. During the 1930's, the home was purchased by Vernon Sharp



Historic Wilson Family Celebrated at Our Annual Christmas “Open House” (Continued)

homes, a catered candlelight reception will follow at the Cool Springs House in Crockett Park. Christmas music will be performed by Joyce Rouse, and all are encouraged to sing along to the traditional tunes. Refreshments and a tasty array of appetizers will be available at your final stop.

Reservations are essential for all those planning to attend the festivities. The price for each event ticket shall be \$10 with checks made payable to the Brentwood Historical Society. To allow for proper planning, your tickets must be secured in advance by sending a check to Suzanne Burns at 6042 Wellesley Way, Brentwood 37027. Please provide your reservation by December 1st. You may begin your tour at either home of your own choosing, finding your way back to the Cool Springs House for the concluding festivities. We invite you to the homes of the historic Wilson family, past and present, and we look forward to beginning the holiday season with you on Thursday, December 4th!



Above: Oak Hall, built by James Hazard Wilson for his son, Samuel after his marriage to Lucy Ann Marshall in 1845. Previous page: Inglehame, also built as a wedding present by JHW for his son James Hazard Wilson III after his marriage to Virginia Zollicoffer, daughter of Confederate General Felix Zollicoffer. The general died at the Battle of Mill Springs, Kentucky early in the war.

David Johnston - A Revolutionary War Soldier

By Bob Dennison

After the Revolutionary War many states rewarded those citizens that had served in the war with a grant of land in what was then known as the “western territories.” This method was used since most of the states were essentially broke from waging the long and costly war. Tennessee, then a part of North Carolina, provided the land for that state’s heroes, and as a result was settled by many of these soldiers and their families. One of these was David Johnston.

David Johnston was born about 1745, probably in North Carolina. Little is known about David but in 1780 he was listed as a private in the Mecklenburg, NC militia. On November 20, 1780, he was serving under Gen. Thomas Sumter in South Carolina. Gen. Sumter was a great hero of the Revolution, and led his troops in numerous engagements against the British, winning some, forced to retreat in others. On this date, however, Sumter had moved his troops into defensive position on the Blackstock Plantation in a bend of the Tiger River in what was then Union County, SC. His force was attacked by the British 63rd Regiment, led by Lt

Col Banastre Tarleton. Tarleton pushed his force to the attack, but Gen. Sumter had the position well defended. In the ensuing battle Tarleton, later admitted, lost 51 killed or wounded. The Americans lost 3 killed and 4 wounded. This brings us to David Johnston. Two of the wounded were Gen. Sumter with a shot to his shoulder and David who lost his arm.

David Johnston’s military career undoubtedly came to an end. On March 4, 1789 he was granted a disability pension while living in Ashe County (then Wilkes County, NC). By 1807, David had moved to Williamson County with his wife, Elizabeth. There was at least one son, Robert. David’s land included land that is now Brentwood Hills subdivision and extended to include the property that is today the Tennessee Baptist Children’s Home, and apparently extended north to Concord Road. It is uncertain how he came to possess this land. It was on the Children’s Home property that the family graveyard was located.

David died February 18, 1829. Oddly enough, his son Robert’s will was probated the same month, April

David Johnston - A Revolutionary War Soldier (Continued)

1829, as was David's. Named as David's heirs, were his grandchildren, David, Robert, William, James, Lancelot, and Martha Johnston. Grandson James is credited with building the home known today as Isola Bella on Franklin Road.



The Johnston family graveyard had been lost and forgotten for many years until former Children's Home resident Jim Murphy related his boyhood knowledge of the graveyard to Vance Little. Fount Smothers of the Sons of the American Revolution was called into the picture, as was Nick Fielder, the state archaeologist. The resulting effort located 12 graves on the site, including David Johnston (1745-1829), Elizabeth Johns-

ton (1747-1827), Robert Johnston (1775-1827), Rachel Johnston (1782-1864), David Johnston, Jr., Carrie Johnston (1803-1824), Esau Johnston (1836-1863), Henry C. Johnston, Fannie Johnston (1840-1864), Rachel Johnston (1830-1848), William Ford, James Polk Reed (1844-1909), and Dallas Reed (1842-1920). Others are unknown.

Now we want to recognize this Revolutionary War hero, his family and their contributions to state and country, and make sure their cemetery is not lost again. In November of this year, the Brentwood Historical Society in conjunction with the Williamson County chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution conducted a ceremony to celebrate a new historic cemetery marker beside Franklin Road, and a marble headstone with the SAR emblem at the graves of David and Elizabeth. Drop by and visit the site soon !

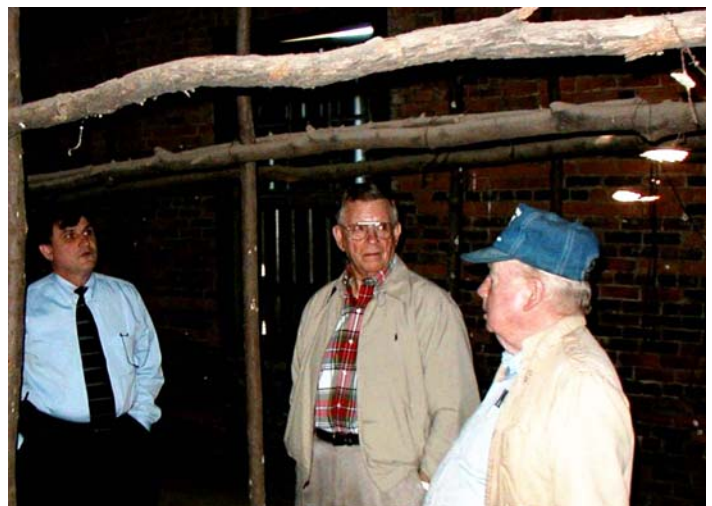
Boiling Spring Academy Scheduled for Repair and Stabilization

By Joe Lassus

The City of Brentwood recently entered into contract with renown historic preservationist Vic Hood and his firm, Leatherwood, Inc. Mr. Hood has already initiated work on the replacement of the deteriorated roofing on the old academy building. A dark red standing seam metal roof system, common during the 19th Century, will afford long-term protection for this valuable historic resource. Other exterior work under contract includes masonry repairs where needed, masonry re-pointing of the entire building, restoration of all windows and doors, and re-pointing/re-setting of the stone foundation and exterior steps.

First floor interior work will include re-plastering of the walls, drywalling the ceiling, and renovation of the existing poplar flooring. Eight-inch baseboards will be installed to match the design of existing original sections. The second floor will experience similar preservation efforts to preserve the poplar flooring and baseboards, replaster the walls, and install Heart Pine ceiling.

Vic Hood is pictured here on left with Brentwood City Historian Vance Little and Charlie Primm. The group is standing on the academy's second floor.



The pole system pictured was used by the Primm farm to cure tobacco during the last century. Mr. Hood continues to uncover priceless details still remaining within the structure that will allow a faithful replication of the various building elements used to construct the academy, and to then convert it to a church during the later portion of the 1800's. Several window panes were found within the building that retain decorative stained glass designs that once graced the church.

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Society

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

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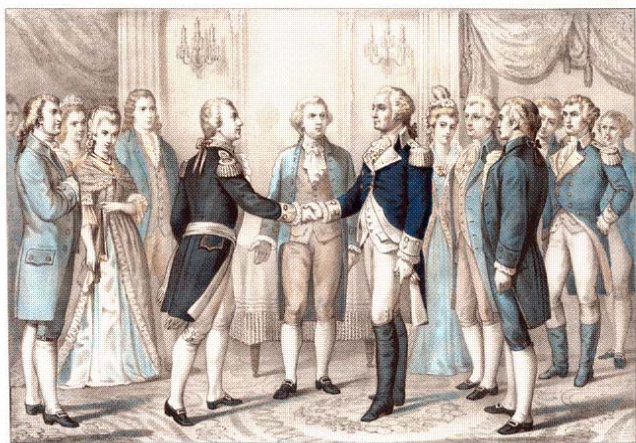
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Plans set for Annual Founders Day Event – February 2004 !

The Brentwood Historical Society is most fortunate to secure Fount Smothers as a speaker for the upcoming Founders Day Event. Mr. Smothers is President of the local chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution, and a descendant of the Andrew Crockett family



THE FIRST MEETING OF WASHINGTON AND LAFAYETTE.
Philadelphia, August 3rd 1777.

in Brentwood. He will speak at the February 7th evening event on the subject of General Lafayette, and his connection to the Andrew Crockett family. A member of the Crockett family served as an aide to General Lafayette during the Revolutionary War. Several decades later, he was honored to accompany Lafayette during his tour of the United States in the 1820's. We eagerly anticipate Fount Smothers' remarks on this interesting aspect of Brentwood's local history.

Our annual event will take place once again at the Cool Springs Marriott convention facility. Event planners have chosen to modify the musical program this year, opting for a more low key live music format. The delicious buffet will still be in order as you greet your friends and neighbors to celebrate the history of Brentwood. More details later—mark your calendars now !

