

The Bugle

THE BUGLE, NAMED FOR THE FIRST NEWSPAPER IN BRENTWOOD

A publication of the Brentwood Historical Society



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Historic Sites Donated 2
to the City for Park

Boiling Springs Slated 2
for Restoration

Fewkes Group Mounds 3
Historic Significance

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Summer event to highlight antiques and their preservation.
- Primm Park to be developed by the City of Brentwood, showcasing Fewkes Group Native American Mounds and the Boiling Springs Academy.

ANTIQUES ARE THE FOCUS OF NEXT

The Brentwood Historical Society announces its next big summer event scheduled for the afternoon of Saturday, August 9, 2003 at the Brentwood Library on Concord Road. Beginning at 2 PM, our members and guests will be treated to a most informative afternoon centered on the subject of antiques.

Suzanne Burns has scheduled two interesting sessions for the afternoon. The program will begin with a lecture by Mark Brown, Executive Director of the Belmont Mansion in Nashville. Mr. Brown will relate his expertise on the subject of the restoration and preservation of antique furniture. As you may be aware, Belmont Mansion has acquired an extensive collection of antique furniture now gracing that historic landmark. Mark Brown has been instrumental in restoring many pieces of donated antique furniture while also managing the facility.

The second session of the afternoon will be hosted by antique appraiser, Paul Cross. As you may remember, Mr. Cross has participated in previous BHS events, appraising a variety of antique items for the membership. His sessions have been a highlight of previous events, and we

look forward to having Paul back again.

For this event, members will be limited to one free appraisal per family, and prior notice should be provided to Suzanne Burns by August 6th. If you plan to participate in the appraisal sessions, it would be very helpful to furnish a preliminary hard copy photo of the item before the event. Please do not email photos. This will give the appraiser additional time to research your item, and provide a more



ANTIQUES ARE THE FOCUS OF NEXT SOCIETY EVENT (CONTINUED)

accurate value. If possible, also photograph any manufacturer's marks or hallmarks on the antique that would assist in the appraisal. These photos are not mandatory for participation in the event. Please send the photos to Suzanne Burns (see address on the back page of this newsletter). The photographs should reach Suzanne in the mail by July 30th. Also, participating members should arrive at the library with their antique by 1 PM on August 9th so that appropriate setup can be accomplished.

The event will be open to the membership at no charge, and your friends and relatives are also invited to attend so as to learn more about the Brentwood Historical Society. If attending, please contact Suzanne Burns by August 6th at 373-1614 so that the organization can make adequate provision for snacks and drinks. We hope you will be able to join us.



In August, the Brentwood Historical Society is celebrating antiques! Above: Antique painted chest from the Colonial Williamsburg Collection, Williamsburg, Virginia. Previous Page: Antique bedroom furniture from the Hermann-Grima House, New Orleans, Louisiana.

PRIMM FAMILY FACILITATES PRESERVATION OF BOILING SPRINGS ACADEMY

BY JOE LASSUS

Brentwood is indeed blessed by the recent donation of the historic Boiling Springs Academy by Edgar and Dorothy Primm. In conjunction with the new Montclair development on Moores Lane, the Primm family



The Boiling Springs Academy (circa 1832) as viewed from the Fewkes Indian Mound. This historic site is located on Moores Lane adjacent to the new Montclair development.

facilitated the transfer of this key historic resource to the community. As a part of the Montclair residential development, CPS Land, LLC also donated to Brentwood some thirty acres of land lining Moores Lane that contain the Fewkes Indian Mound site. This acquisition will help ensure the long-term preservation of two of Brentwood's most precious historic resources. We owe a tremendous debt to the donors, and look forward to the development of this land as Primm Park in the coming year.

The City has recently assembled members of the Brentwood Historic Commission to plan and facilitate the establishment of Primm Park and the restoration of the Boiling Springs Academy structure. The Historic Commission will be working with Brentwood department directors to expedite the project. Early committee objectives include building restoration, historic research, park facilities planning, school programs planning, and special events planning.

Reviewing the National Register of Historic Places nomination form, we recognize the great historic sig-

BOILING SPRINGS (CONTINUED)...

nificance of this site. With respect to the academy, “The primary significance of this building rests with its exposition of the architectural characteristics of an 1830’s educational institution. It shows in this particular case, the community saw the need to raise an impressive educational structure that was very permanent in nature as evidenced by the brick construction and simple decorative treatment. It is also significant as an early example of adaptive reuse. Although it was common to reuse schools for churches and vice versa, this building does show quite graphically by the alterations that the church users felt that a “proper church” should have its main door in the gable end. Therefore, the Boiling Springs Academy building is a reflection of the different architectural values represented by an 1830’s educational institution and a ca. 1900 religious institution.” This nomination report is very detailed in its consideration of the structure, and its architectural de-

tails. For those interested, a copy may be obtained from this editor.



Fewkes Group Archeological Site to Become Part of Primm Park

BY JOE LASSUS

The historic significance of the Fewkes Group archeological site on Moores Lane can not be overestimated. Following his detailed examination of this prehistoric Native American village in 1928, William Myer urged immediate nomination of the site to the National Register of Historic Places, and noted that, “The citizens of Tennessee strongly urge that the Fewkes Group be made a national monument.”

This Native American settlement was developed during the Mississippian Period (1200-1500 A.D.), and was sited on a small knoll overlooking the Little Harpeth River. At this location, the river is only about five feet wide and is partially fed by year-round springs. Myer described the site as a, “group of five mounds, one on each side of a level town square (plaza) and the fifth on the edge of the riverbank.” It also contains traces of about a dozen “house circles” and a remnant of a stone slab cemetery.

Many of us are aware of the detailed archeological study of these mounds during the 1920’s. However, earlier excavation was accomplished at the site in 1895 by the Honorable P. E. Cox, a local resident. He excavated several “stone box grave” burials. The ease of

identification of the stone slab lined burial pits made them a prime target for antiquarians in the late 19th century. The earliest known reference to the site is an illustration of a clay figurine found there by a man named Jones in 1876.

The most extensive research at the site was performed by avocational archeologist William Myer who named the location in honor of J. W. Fewkes, Chief of the Bureau of American Ethnology, who had visited the site. The two largest mounds at the time were identified as Mound 1 and Mound 2. Mound 1 is the clearly discernable feature at the present-day site and was the largest mound standing 25 feet high in 1920. It was not explored by the expedition due to a lack of funds.

Mound 2 was thoroughly examined by Myer’s group, but is only slightly visible now due to repeated farm plowings. Myer described Mound 2 as 7.5 feet in height, and 235 feet (north-south) by 160 feet (east-west). The National Register nomination report states, “Specifically, the previous research conducted in the 1920’s produced significant data relating to substructure mound construction and the recognition of sequential phases of mound occupation; description of wattle and

The Bugle,
A publication of the Brentwood Historical
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.

For information or membership, contact:
Brentwood Municipal Center
371-0060 (www.brentwood-tn.org)
Linda Lynch
Community Relations Director
T. Vance Little, City Historian



Executive Council of the Brentwood Historical Society

Suzanne Burns, Secretary, 6042 Wellesley Way,
Brentwood, 373-1614, email: sburns8@bellsouth.net

Wendell Edison, Treasurer, 6551 Cloverbrook Drive,
Brentwood, 377-1083, email: edison2@comcast.net

Jim Hackett, Membership, 1735 Charity Drive,
Brentwood, 376-2233, email: jshackett@comcast.net

Joe Lassus, Newsletter Editor, 2609 Palomino Ct, Thompson Sta-
tion, 595-1623, email: lassusj@brentwood-tn.org

Sue Ross, Membership, 5101 Cornwall Drive,
Brentwood, 221-0026, email: susan_ross@uhc.com

Bob Dennison, Honorary Society Historian

Fewkes Group Archeological Site (continued)

daub construction with detailed observations on materials and techniques; direct evidence of maize agriculture; association of stone box grave cemeteries with village features; and describing patterning of major features within the site." The report goes on to celebrate the future research potential of the mounds once in public ownership. Questions related to the development and distribution of the prehistoric Mississippian population groups can be explored through radiocarbon dating of the extensive charcoal samples at this site.



Mark your calendars! Our Christmas candlelight open house is scheduled for the evening of Thursday, December 4th, highlighting the grand homes at Oak Hall and Boxwood Hall with a holiday reception at the Cool Springs House.



Fewkes Indian Mound as seen from the window of the Boiling Springs Academy on the site of future Primm Park.