

The Bugle



The Bugle, named for the first newspaper in Brentwood
-a publication of the Brentwood Historical Society

BRENTWOOD TOUR OF HOMES SLATED FOR OCTOBER BY JOE LASSUS

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The Brentwood Historic Commission is sponsoring the *Brentwood Tour of Homes* this coming October 2nd and 3rd. Advance tickets can be purchased starting on September 20th at Brentwood City Hall, Brentwood Library, Publix-Cool Springs, and Premier

Bank. Proceeds will fund restoration and preservation projects at Primm Park located on Moores Lane. This site which includes the Boiling Spring Academy (circa 1830) and the Native American Prehistoric Mounds (circa 1200 A.D.) contains some of the most important historical and cultural resources in Tennessee.

Brentwood Tour of Homes:
October 2nd: 10am-5pm
October 3rd: 1pm-5pm
\$12 in advance or
\$15 at the door

Also, on the tour will be the Owen Primm House which is immediately across the street from the Boiling Spring Academy. Mr. Charlie Primm will



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HOME TOUR (CONTINUED)

be opening his home for the tour this year so that the community may be able to view this important historic home. In *Historic Brentwood*, Vance Little explains that, “The Owen Primm House was built by Jabez Owen, a prominent early Brentwood physician. It was built in the classic simplicity of a Middle Tennessee plantation house with four columns supporting the two story porch. The slave cabins are still intact along the drive leading to the rear of the house.”

Another home of interest on the tour is of more modern vintage but of historic architectural design. It was constructed just last year at Murray Lane and Franklin Road. The Snodgrass Home is a lavishly appointed residence which incorporates light fixtures, woodwork, and furniture of complementing historic design. Other



homes on the tour include Mooreland (circa 1838), Mt. Lebanon Missionary Baptist Church (Frierson Place), Deerwood Manor, and the Wall Home.

The Brentwood Historic Commission is in need of volunteers to help out at the event! If you have some spare time that weekend and would like to assist us, please contact Margie Sparks at 371-0060.



The Snodgrass Home in Princeton Hills (pictured left) will provide a taste of historic architecture within a modern home in Brentwood. The Owen-Primm House (pictured above) and the Boiling Spring Academy (pictured on front page) offer two historic structures for the tour.

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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 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!

Brentwood Historic Commission

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Linda Lynch, City Staff
Joe Lassus, *Bugle* Editor

Annual Funding Successes !!

The Brentwood Historical Society wishes to thank all who renewed their membership in our recent update. Many members went far beyond the basic dues standard in supporting the Society. All contributions are recognized and greatly appreciated. As a practice, the Brentwood Historical Society sends out an annual notice each June to provide for needed financial support on projects and events. Dues can be provided to the Brentwood Historical Society each year through the City of Brentwood offices at 5211 Maryland Way, Brentwood, TN 37027.

Boiling Spring Restoration

Recognized by
National Trust for Historic
Preservation !!

The National Trust for Historic Preservation has featured the recent restoration of Boiling Spring Academy on the NTHP website, "Preservation Online." This online magazine of the National Trust provides ongoing news related to historic preservation topics. The address of the article: http://www.nationaltrust.org/magazine/archives/arc_news/080404.htm.

LIPSCOMB SCHOOL-OWEN’S STATION (CONTINUED)

were the daughters of Daniel Collins, long time secretary of the Owen Chapel Church. They lived at Grandview, a majestic home that still stands on Wikle Road. Emma Collins wrote, “May happiness await thee/Where ever thy feet may rove/And every sky seem beaming/A beauteous light of love.”

Eliza and Frank Owen also signed the book. They were children of Robert Roland Owen who at that time lived at Clovermeade, now known as Brentmeade subdivision. The old house has been bulldozed. Frank Owen exhibited his artistic talents by drawing a graceful swan. His sister Eliza left her elaborately engraved calling card inscribed, “Eliza Owen.”

Mary and Sally Craig were also students then at Owen’s Station School. They were the daughters of Owen Thomas Craig who lived at the house that stands along side of I-65 between Old Hickory Boulevard and Concord Road.

A couple of the Allen children were also in the school. Ida and Anna were children of Jabez Owen Allen who lived at Maplelawn, now Foxboro subdivision. Their home, which too was a fine home, has also been bulldozed. It stood on what is now Coxboro Drive.

In the book Anna Allen wrote, “May you leave many true friends at Owen’s Station is the sincere wish of your school-mates.” She went on to marry Dr. David Rice Gooch, a prominent physician from the Nolensville area.

Owen’s Station School was probably in its heyday in the 1880’s. Private academies were very popular in Williamson County at the time. Another private academy in Brentwood was nearby Boiling Spring Academy on Moores Lane. They were proprietary institutions established by local people for the education of their own children as well as tuition paying out-of-towners.

Many private academies became part of the Williamson County Public School System when it got up and running in the 1890’s. That was the course followed by Owen Station School. When that happened, Professor William Lipscomb moved on too. He went to teach with his brother David Lipscomb in his newly founded Nashville school, then called the Nashville Bible School.

Owen’s Station School took its name from the community in which it was located. The area was known for the station on the railroad less than a mile south of Concord Road.

A WOMAN CHALLENGED: THE LIFE OF GRANNY WHITE

BY DORIS BOYCE

Imagine that you were born in 1743 as Lucinda Wilson was. In about 1760 she became the second wife of Zachariah White and helped raise his children in addition to a brood of her own. Zachariah wanted land badly enough to risk his scalp. He joined James Robinson to go overland to the North Carolina Cumberland territory to establish the settlement of French Lick where the city of Nashville now stands.

Zachariah was a militia man, a farmer, and a part-time professional. He taught the



first school at French Lick in the spring of 1781 but was killed at the Battle of the Bluffs later that year. He left Lucinda, called Lucy, and his heirs cash poor. They could not pay the surveyor fee necessary to be eligible for a grant of 640 acres awarded by North Carolina to the families of

men killed defending the settlement.

Seventeen years later, in 1801, Lucy was told by the courts of Surrey County in the Tidewater district of North Carolina that she was a woman, too old and too poor to take on the responsibility of her two orphaned grandsons, Thomas and Willis, ages 8 and 9.

They were to be bound over to a tradesman to keep them out of the

poorhouse. She would not be told “no” again, certainly not in North Carolina.

Lucy loaded her spinning wheel and household goods on an oxcart pulled by a yellow longhorn steer. She left in the middle of the night with Thomas and Willis and an elderly slave name Uncle Zachary. They traveled three miles a day and walked the 800 to 900 miles through Indian territory and the rugged Carolina mountains leading the oxcart toward the Cumberland settlements where she had three adult children and a number of step-children. Along the way they made stop-overs long enough to become self-sufficient. In Roane County, Tennessee, she put up a Ginger Cake Stand and sold baked goods to travelers.

“They traveled three miles a day and walked the 800 to 900 miles through Indian territory...”

THE LIFE OF GRANNY WHITE (CONTINUED)

Lucy was 60 years old, a small, white-headed woman when she arrived in Nashville in 1803. She put up another Ginger Cake Stand and operated a tar pit or kiln for greasing wagon axles. After that she purchased, for a nominal price, and with indefinite time to pay it off, 50 acres comprising two faces of a pair of confronting hills. The land was located on an old buffalo path that had become the first road south out of Nashville toward Franklin. One hill had to be dug away to make a place for a log house. The other hill was planted in grapevines, fruit trees, and garden produce. Apples rolled down the hill to a fence and pumpkins had to be staked to a hillside.

By 1812 Lucy had opened an inn that attracted travelers from the Natchez Trace four miles to the west. She was known for her fine cooking. She made and served her own whiskey. She had the best brandy and applejack and the best pancakes and the cleanest beds. She charged 12 1/2 cents a night for a room and 50 cents to board horses. Lucy was innkeeper, housekeeper, and cook. She also managed to weave the cloth to make the bed linens and wearing apparel. When more guests were needed she added wings, a room at a time.

Lucy's grandsons called her Granny and soon the customers did, too, and so she is

remembered today as Granny White. Granny died in 1816 at 73 years old. She had money, slaves, horses, and cattle at her death. Thomas died as a youth in an accident, so Willis inherited but the tavern was not open to paying guests after Granny died. Willis married Winifred, had ten children, and moved to Nashville so the children could go to school. Willis and his wife returned to the inn in their old age.

The inn was half rotted by the time of the Battle of Nashville. Everett Beasley acquired the lands in 1930, and in 1942 replicated the log tavern at the same location. After 30 years the logs began to sag just as Granny's originals had. One hundred and sixty-five years after her death the property was developed into 43 residences called the Inns of Granny White. Her fenced grave site is at the entrance.

Granny did not accept the social wisdom of her day. She did not let being a woman, being old, or being poor defeat her. After a hopeless beginning she became self-reliant, and an entrepreneur. In her day, however, she was infamous. She flaunted the law, engaged in commerce, and made and sold liquor. She took strangers into her home. She accepted the challenges of frontier life and did what she had to do.

MEMENTO FROM LIPSCOMB FOUND ON THE INTERNET

BY VANCE LITTLE

Recently when browsing the Internet, I stumbled upon a message posted on a bulletin board asking if anyone knew anything about Owen's Station School in Williamson County, Tennessee. I flashed a reply by e-mail to the effect that I knew more about Owen Station School than I suspected the message poster wanted to know. You see, Owen's Station School was a former name of Lipscomb Elementary School.

There is in the possession of Frank L. Saffarans an autograph book from 1882 and 1883 in which the students at Owen's Station School wrote their names and a little tribute to the book's owner. The book belonged to Saffaran's grandfather Thomas J. Saffarans, from Columbia, TN, who attended Owen's Station School and stayed on to teach there. He married one of his students and moved to Texas, where his descendants still live.

The names of those signing the book reads like a Brentwood social register of the late 1800's. In addition to the familiar Brentwood names, there were several out-of-state names.

Lipscomb Elementary School was founded as a private academy by William Lipscomb, a brother of David Lipscomb who founded the Nashville University that now bears his name. Both had strong

Church of Christ affiliations and were instrumental in founding the Owen Chapel Church of Christ which still stands on Franklin Road at Jackson Lane.



William Lipscomb, his wife and one of his sons all taught at Lipscomb Academy/Owen's Station School. They were all classical scholars and taught the classics on a secondary level.

As a matter of fact, one of the student's tribute were not decipherable. It looks like hieroglyphics. Indeed, it turns out that it was Greek. Professor Lipscomb is known to have been proficient in both Latin and Greek. Those languages were a part of the curriculum at the school. Nearly all the local students were from Church of Christ families who were active at the Owen Chapel Church of Christ. Two of the students were Jennie and Emma Collins, who