

The Bugle

The Bugle, a publication of the Brentwood Historical Society



HISTORIC HOME TOUR PROMISES ANOTHER MEMORABLE EVENT

BY JOE LASSUS

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The Brentwood Historic Commission proudly announces the upcoming historic home tour scheduled for the weekend of October 7 & 8. This important fundraising event occurs every other year

in Brentwood, and its proceeds will further important historic preservation projects in the community, such as the Boiling Spring Academy restoration.

Following tradition, the tour blends an interesting combination of both traditional historic sites and remarkable new homes in the community.

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Among the historic sites on the agenda is the Sayers House in the new Taramore development. This wonderful antebellum home is in the initial stages of stabilization and restoration so you will witness a work in



Historic Sayers House at Taramore, as envisioned following restoration.

The Bugle
-a publication of the
Brentwood Historical Society
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Brentwood, Tennessee 37024-0788

HISTORIC HOME TOUR...(CONTINUED)

progress at that location. Two other historic homes on the tour are located just off of Wilson Pike. Paul Harmon's home at "Twenty-four Trees" (pictured right) and Jimmy Wilson's residence at "Oak Hall" will provide additional fine examples of early American architecture.

One unusual and interesting historic site on the tour is the WSM radio facility on Concord Road. As you probably know, the WSM station made the Grand Ol' Opry and country music a national institution, and the broadcasts were transmitted from our vintage



radio tower right here in Brentwood. The diamond-shaped, vertical antenna standing 878 feet high, was the tallest tower in North American following its construction in the early 1930's (pictured left).

As we know, Brentwood is currently making his-



tory in the built environment, and several exciting new homes will complement the tour agenda. At the Governors Club, you will make a stop at 5 Innisbrook Lane. Two visits are planned within the Princeton Hills community. Special residences are scheduled at 5016 Cornell Court and 5107 Yale Court. Rounding out the assembly of new locations on tour is an exciting home at 6209 River Oaks Court in the northwestern section of the City.

The Brentwood Historic Commission is most excited about the upcoming tour during the first weekend of October. Be sure to mark your calendars now and reserve time to join us. More information will be forthcoming on the various details of the event.

The Bugle, a publication of the Brentwood Historical Society (editor: Joe Lassus)

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!



Mark your calendars now for the Brentwood Historic Home Tour!!

..scheduled for the first weekend in October (7-8)

Road Trip !!

Members of the Brentwood Historical Society recently traveled to Princeton, Kentucky and toured the historic Adsmore mansion (circa 1857). The restored home was purchased by the John Parker Smith family in 1900 and is now decorated in the style of that time period. Sharon Wnuk coordinated this wonderful excursion that was enjoyed by all.



SAYERS MANSION (CONTINUED)

special emphasis on both the proper preservation of the residence and the landscaping of the surrounding site. Fortunately, the home built during the 1840's is in great condition considering its age. The historic commission worked with John Wieland Homes on plans for refurbishing exterior building elements and on the proper means of cleaning the old masonry surfaces.

Another principal focus was to assure proper landscape screening of the historic mansion from the serving parking lots and the complementing pool and tennis courts. Brentwood landscape architect Skip Heibert assisted the historic commission in providing professional recommendations to the developer on how to best achieve the proper landscape setting for the future amenity center. Under the Brentwood Municipal Code the Brentwood Historic Commission is charged with applying historic preservation standards contained within the Heritage Foun-



dation publication entitled, "Saving the Farmstead." One approach to proper preservation is to provide effective landscape buffering between a historic structure and any modern additions, such as the pool and tennis courts.

Recently, the Brentwood Planning Commission provided the final approvals for the preservation project and surrounding amenity center for Taramore, allowing work to begin. The project has been a very positive effort by John Wieland Homes and so many of our Brentwood leaders. We look forward to the restoration of the historic mansion and the wonderful addition of this amenity center to the Brentwood community.

BLUE AND GRAY FIND COMMON GROUND

BY JOE LASSUS

In the last issue of *The Bugle*, the story was told of the Split Log School. The article made mention of a Confederate veteran, Jim Barnes (pictured below in elder years), who attended Split Log School during the tenure of teacher Pink Read. The Barnes family was then living on the farm of Esquire Mack Winstead where Jim Barnes assisted in the construction of the Winstead mansion. This antebellum home is now a centerpiece of the Governors Club development.



By the time Jim Barnes had reached the age of 17, the Civil War had commenced and the youngster was one of the first to join the Confederate Army. Jim entered service with the 55th Tennessee Regiment but was soon badly stricken with the measles and was sent home for a time to recuperate.

Later returning to his unit, Barnes rode with Dr. Patterson's Company for protection. During transit, the company captured four Yankee prisoners and Dr. Patterson instructed Jim to take them temporarily to Triune. After some difficulty in securing adequate horses for transport, the party reached Triune near sundown.

Jim spent considerable time trying to find a place to keep his prisoners but no one would have them. A man named Carter eventually provided help sheltering the group at Hutton's Tailor Shop, and also providing a good meal. After Carter had left for the night the prisoners related that they realized the town was stirred up about Yankee atrocities, and that their lives were in danger.

One of the prisoners was a rather friendly lieutenant. When Jim feel asleep on his "watch," the lieutenant took possession of Jim's firearm. On waking, the

...COMMON GROUND (CONTINUED) BY JOE LASSUS

lieutenant demanded “surrender!”, but then laughed, saying, “If I had not known the house was being watched and I would have been shot, I would have been gone; but I wouldn’t have harmed you, Jim.” Then and there a Yankee and a Rebel became friends.

The group remained in Triune for two more nights. During that time, a curious lady sent word to bring the prisoners down, and she would make music for them. Well, the group obliged for a rather pleasant time when she played, “some of the sweetest music I ever heard.” But, all at once, the lady became indignant and verbally abused the prisoners. Jim moved the prisoners out, and one Yankee reportedly promised to return and burn the house.

When Dr. Patterson was free, Jim returned the prisoners to him at Nolensville and they were sent to Clover Bottom farm to be exchanged for Confederate prisoners. Jim took the opportunity to stop at home for clean clothes and to see the Barnes family before rejoining his unit at Shelbyville.

Later in the war, the same Union lieutenant was stationed in the Split Log vicinity and inquired about Jim from one of his neighbors. The lieutenant located the Barnes home and went to see his parents. He discovered Jim’s father near death, and the family totally lacking in food and provisions. The lieutenant had meat, flour, rice,

sugar, and coffee sent to the Barnes home. He also stationed a guard nearby who would prevent other troops from stealing these items. In Jim’s autobiography he writes that, “This was done for my family because I showed kindness to him.” Sadly, the elder Barnes died shortly afterward.

Jim Barnes would go on to fight at the battles of Murfreesboro and Chickamauga, moving on to service in Virginia until the end of the War. In fact, Jim was captured in the final days by General Grant’s army, and spent two months at the Union prison known as Point Lookout.

This was not the end of the story though. After the war, the same Union lieutenant was in the area and sent word to Jim to come for a visit. Due to the outrages of the Union Army in the area, Jim flew into a rage and sent word that he would not come. After the years had mellowed him though, Jim wrote in his autobiography that, “If my Yankee lieutenant is living today, or if he has passed on, I wish he could know that I am sorry; and today I have no hatred in my heart for any man.”



SAYERS MANSION PRESERVATION BEGINS AT TARAMORE

BY JOE LASSUS

One of the largest new developments in Brentwood is known as Taramore, a project of John Wieland Homes. The emerging residential neighborhood is situated on 300 acres off of Split Log Road just one mile east of Wilson Pike. We are most fortunate to have one of the classic antebellum homes of Middle Tennessee still preserved on this property. The historic mansion is known as the James J. Sayers House and will become the central focus of the community amenity center.

The Brentwood development regulations provide special incentives through the Open Space Residential Development (OSRD) zoning district when builders preserve our local historic treasures. Fortunately, John Wieland Homes is implementing this preservation track which also

preserves significant areas of dedicated open space within the community. The related approval process also enlists the advice of the Brentwood Historic Commission during the design phase of the historic preservation effort. The project will restore the two-story brick residence while also providing an architecturally compatible meeting room addition to the old structure. Plans also call for the construction of new tennis courts and a swimming pool facility to serve the future residents.

During the recent review process, the Brentwood Historic Commission placed

