



The Buchanan Log

August/September 2011



The Buchanan Log House Chapter Association for the Preservation of Tennessee Antiquities

President's Message

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Please visit our website at:

buchananloghouse.com

We want to say good bye to Director Kaye Tobe who recently retired from Wilson County Bank and moved to Birmingham with her husband. We wish her well. The Buchanan Log House wishes to welcome Cumberland University Professor Rick Bell, Dr. Bill McKee, Chair of Cumberland University's History Department, and our long time member Bill Edwards as our new Directors.

The Buchanan Log House Chapter, APTA is enjoying many programs in our lovely historic home. I want to introduce you to one of our long-standing programs - a group who meets at the BLH on a regular basis, the Nashville Old-Time String Band Association (NOTSBA).

The NOTSBA is a 501(c)3 nonprofit membership-based organization, dedicated to preserving, promoting, and performing old-time string band music. Their mission is fulfilled by hosting jam sessions (two per month at Buchanan Log House), through public performances, workshops, countless hours of volunteer time, and several other means. Their activities are family-friendly, and acoustic musicians of all ages and skill levels are welcome.

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The mission of the Buchanan Log House Chapter, Association for the Preservation of Tennessee Antiquities is to promote preservation, education and interpretation of historic sites in Donelson, Hermitage, Middle Tennessee, and Tennessee.

Chapter Officers:

President

Lu Whitworth

Vice President

Don Kent

Secretary

Darlene Kent

Treasurer

Judy Vecchione

Directors

Professor Rick Bell,
Cumberland University
Joe Cathey, Environmental
Consultant
Bill Edwards, Real Estate
Dr. Bill McKee, Chair,
History Dept., Cumberland
University

NOTSBA partners with Buchanan Log House by providing music for the annual Fish Fry and Silent Auction; as well as Fall Festival Days. The NOTSBA members also participate with Buchanan Log House membership in maintaining the buildings and grounds.

Old-time music has been played on front porches, in parlors, under shade trees, and was widely used in rural areas for community dances and barn raisings. Its roots may be traced as far back as the 1700's. If you have an interest for authentic folk music, please contact Don Kent, 868-9951, and visit the website, www.nashvilleoldtime.org.

Plan to come see and listen to them at the Folk Festival on Saturday, September 17th.

You, our members, are a very important part of the Buchanan Log House family, and we always appreciate your support. Enjoy the remainder of the summer.

August Activities

Civil War Musical Journey at the Buchanan Log House

The Historic Buchanan Log House will be presenting a **CIVIL WAR MUSICAL JOURNEY**, on Sunday, August 21, 2011, from 2:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. Some of the greatest American songs were popular during the chaos of the Civil War. Hearing them again today can invoke powerful memories of what the many fighters, families and friends experienced during the tumultuous years of conflict. One hour of music will return you to this period in time.

Come with us on this musical journey of songs from the Civil War period as presented by Kay Reynolds, Mezzo Soprano, Bob Teague, Baritone & Guitar, Suzanne Potter, Violin, Peggy Pellett, Piano and Audrey Campbell, Narrator. Songs to be performed include: The Cruel War is

Raging - Do They Miss Me at Home? - The Vacant Chair - Oh, Freedom - Sarah - Cindy - Was My Brother in the Battle? - Just Before the Battle, Mother - The Battle Cry of Freedom - For the Dear Old Flag I Die - That's What's the Matter - All Quiet Along the Potomac Tonight - Goober Peas - Somebody's Darling - Stonewall Jackson's Way - When Johnny Comes Marching Home - America the Beautiful

Don't miss this fabulous musical performance - bring your friends and neighbors.

Refreshments will be furnished and a door prize will go to a lucky winner. Sponsors are Ellendale's and Archive Lookup.

The Buchanan Log House is located at 2910 Elm Hill Pike, Nashville (near the airport). The event is free and open to the public, and plenty of free parking.

Summer Special at Buchanan Log House

FREE HOUSE TOURS on Saturday, August 13, 2011, 10 - 3pm

Take a leisurely tour of the James Buchanan Log House built in the early 1800's on a gentle knoll. Be greeted by a docent who will be on hand with her dulcimer so you may hear some of the music from that time period.

Here sits a historic gem peacefully awaiting your visit. Bring the family and catch a glimpse of Tennessee frontier history.

September Activities

FALL FOLK FESTIVAL

This free event features early 19TH Century gathering with many interactive activities and demonstrations for your enjoyment and education.

Visit with President Abe Lincoln with many guests in period costumes--

- Quilting Weaving Spinning Country Dancing Candle Making Stitching Embroidery Blacksmithing Basket Weaving Soap Making Wood Carving Chair Caning--
- TRAIN RIDES FOR CHILDREN

- Genealogy including the James Buchanan Family History
- MUSIC by Nashville's Old Time String Band, The Nashville Grand Ole Dulcimer Club, Stephani Elli, Brian Whitton, Wanda & Mark, Jeff & Shawn (and maybe, Paul & Kim)
- BUCHANAN LOG HOUSE MARKET PLACE
- Food & drinks available on site with plenty of Free Parking

Lecture Series for June and July

The following summarizes lectures for June and July by Professor Rick Bell and General Andrew and Mrs. Jackson:

The History of Horn Springs Resort

The Buchanan Log House Annual Meeting was highlighted by an excellent lecture by Cumberland University Professor Rick Bell on *The History of Horn Springs*. Many of those in the audience witnessed first had the breath taking cold of Horn Springs' pool during the 1950s up until it closed in the 1970s. Many never knew that such an elegant resort once thrived at this same location beginning in the late 1890s up until the Great Depression of 1929.

Professor Bell explained how Jim Horn dug a well and hit a spring with an unpleasant smell, i.e. we call it sulphur water. He sent the water to be analyzed at Vanderbilt University and the analysis was happily received—seems the water had all manner of chemicals that promoted good health. Subsequently, Jim Horn began to grow his business by bottling the water, building the lodge depicted in the photo above and promoting the healthy environment of Horn Springs Resort. To quote Professor Bell: "People came to the resort not just for the healing waters but also to get away. Mothers and kids would come for the summer and Dad would come by train on weekends to visit. So many families did this it was like a reunion every year." Rick also mentioned that Horn Springs had some pretty famous guests, including President Harry Truman and Pulitzer Prize Winning Author, H.L. Davis, who would not leave Horn Springs to accept his prize!

When Jim Horn died in the 1930s, his son Joseph demolished the old hotel and the other buildings and downsized. He built a much smaller hotel with a swimming pool (ca 1935) that catered to weekend quests by lowering the rates and offering lunches and dances.



Professor Bell discusses the 1911 Guest Registry with Buchanan Log House Vice President Don Kent and a guest (Andrew Jackson?). Photo by Patsy Wright Philips 6-12-2011

In ~1937, the hotel was sold to Dr. R.D. Wilkerson who refashioned the hotel once again and added a miniature golf course to the bowling, croquet and swimming. As luck would have it, Horn Springs Hotel was destroyed by a fire in the 1950s and never rebuilt.

Professor Bell had a register from 1911 that included quests from places like Granny White Pike, Hillsboro Road, Sneed Road, Kentucky, and as far away as Italy. Seems a contingent of

Wilson County folks went to Italy in 1930 and met with Benito Mussolini staffers. Mussolini was so impressed with what he heard about Castle Heights Military Academy, that he sent his personal guard to review the operations and report back to the Prime Minister. The guard was a special guest at Horn Springs for an elaborate dinner. Remember we were not at War with Italy in 1930.

As with the Gulf Coast today, Horn Springs was THE vacation spot for Middle Tennesseans in the first half of the 20th Century.—*Joe Cathey*

Visit from General Jackson and wife Mrs. Rachel Jackson July 17th 2011



Members of the Buchanan Log House Chapter of APTA were delighted by a visit from neighbors General Andrew Jackson and wife Rachel on Sunday July 17th.

The General spoke of his childhood in the Scot-Irish Community of Waxhaw, North Carolina and what he had witnessed as a 14 year

Mrs. Jackson and the General stopped by the Buchanan Log House to reminisce about the days when they lived only a few miles away at the Hermitage. Photo by BLH Joe Cathey

old during the American Revolution. How he was used as a messenger by his uncles who were actively fighting the British for America's Independence, and his capture by His Majesty's soldiers. He described in vivid detail the British officer who wanted young Andrew to clean his boots, the resulting blow from the officer's saber when he refused, and the scar on his forehead he carried for the rest of his life.

Mrs. Jackson followed with a detailed description of her childhood and the flatboat ride down the Tennessee River and up the Cumberland River with her Father Colonel John Donelson to found Nashboro. She described how much better her childhood was compared to Andrew's, and how she and her family moved from Nashboro when the Indians were causing so much trouble to a safer Kentucky home.

Both the General and Rachel spoke fondly of their courtship after her troubling marriage to Captain Lewis Robards, who was terribly jealous of any man Rachel said hello to. Rachel described how she was ordered from Captain Robard's home and her return to her Mother in Nashville. The General then confessed that he had not done a thorough review of the divorce proceedings when he announced to Rachel, while visiting her in Natchez, Mississippi that Captain Robards had divorced her, when in fact he had not. As a devout Christian lady, the fact that she had not been divorced and had to endure a second marriage ceremony to the General humiliated her she said. It was obvious from the General's body language the controversy surrounding their marriage remained a sore point for Jackson. He deeply resented attacks on his wife's honor. General Jackson said he fought many duels over wagging tongues about his wife, but Charles Dickinson was the only man Jackson said he killed in a duel. The General described how Dickinson had been goaded into angering him by Jackson's political opponents. In the duel, fought over a horse-racing debt and an insult to his wife in May of 1806, the General said Dickinson shot him in the ribs before he returned the fatal shot that took Dickinson's life.

General Jackson went on to describe his military career covering the Indian Wars in Florida and Alabama, and his triumph at New Orleans in 1815 where some 2000 Red Coats were killed or wounded (including 3 generals) to his seventy-one casualties. He went on to say that it was this victory that lead him to the Presidency; interestingly, he said he preferred to be addressed

as "General" as opposed to "President" Jackson after leaving the White House.

Sadly, Mrs. Jackson said that she died from a broken heart from all the dreadful things folks said about her during the General's first attempt at the Presidency in which he won the popular vote, but lost in the House of Representatives to John Quincy Adams. Rachel went on to say she probably died of a heart attack in December, 1828, two weeks after her husband's victory in the second election and two months before Jackson took office as President. The General said he blamed John Quincy Adams for Rachel's death because the marital scandal was brought up in the election of 1828. He felt that this had hastened her death and he never forgave Adams.

The General and Mrs. Jackson thanked the members of the Buchanan Log House for their hospitality and for allowing them the opportunity to share their stories with their neighbors.

Note: Dave McArdle & Melinda Gaines who are re-enactors brought a wealth of knowledge on the Jackson family. They have appeared for many Tennessee audiences and have worked with PBS on films and documentaries. Both worked at the Hermitage, the home of the President, for eight years. Dave also portrayed the General for Hot Springs, Ark and received rave reviews with four front pages in three days.—*Joe Cathey*

Josef & Dale Wilson Pavilion

JOSEF WILSON PAVILION *Buchanan Log House*



During the annual meeting, Joe and Dale Wilson were recognized for their long service to the Buchanan Log House and to its parent organization APTA by naming the future pavilion in their honor. It began as the Josef Wilson pavilion, but was changed during the ceremony when Mr. Wilson explained that he could not have done as much for the Log House if it were not for his wife Dale. "She has been

right with me the entire way" he said to the audience in accepting the Lose & Associates rendering, which was framed and presented to Joe.

The pavilion will greatly enhance the Chapter's ability to serve the Donelson-Hermitage Community by providing a place for a farmers market, fish fry, Fall Festival, and more without having to worry about tents blowing down. The Buchanan House Board of Directors wishes to thank Lose & Associates Mike Wrye, David Lose, and especially April Grant for designing the pavilion and their continued support of the goals and objectives of the Buchanan Log House. If you would like to make a donation towards the pavilion please make your check payable to the *Buchanan Log House* and state for "PAVILION" fund.

NEWS

Publisher's Statement

The Buchanan Log newsletter is produced and distributed bi-monthly in February, April, June, August, October, and December with occasional special issues during other months by the Buchanan Log House Board of Directors. Contact Patsy Phillips at: patsylee52@comcast.net with comments, content contributions, and subscription information.

- Joining the *Nashville Old Time String Band Association* < <http://nashvilleoldtime.org> > at the Buchanan Log House for jamming sessions and event support will be *The Nashville Grand Ole Dulcimer Club*. Similar to the Old Time String Band < <http://grandolddulcimerclub.org> >, the Dulcimer Club is a group of dulcimer players and musician friends, who meet monthly to play, learn and share. Some of them are beginners, and some have been playing for awhile. David Schnauffer said that there was an instrument for everyone--they simply needed to find it. If you and the mountain dulcimer have found each other, or if you'd like to learn more about this beautiful instrument and its music, the Dulcimer Club invites you to join then. Players of all ages and skill levels are welcome to join. The Buchanan Log House welcomes these musicians to our facility, and as with the Old Time String Band, looks forward to a long association.
- The Metro Nashville Airport Authority has transferred land adjacent to the James Buchanan Cemetery to a developer for a parking facility. President Whitworth and Director Joe Cathey met with the Developer and his Architect & Engineering firm, Barge-Cauthen and Councilman Bruce Stanley to reach an acceptable agreement for the development that resulted in a "special" zoning category. This landuse restriction requires the development to a parking lot. Any future proposed

changes in landuse would have to go before the Metro Council for approval. During the meeting, the Buchanan Log House representatives express concern that there might be unmarked graves outside the fenced cemetery. With that in mind, Barge-Cauthen contracted for a cultural resources survey that included a design to locate unmarked graves. The results of the survey are not available at this writing, but President Whitworth was assured by the Principle Archaeologist that no graves were discovered. In addition to the small excavator shown below, shovel tests were also performed as part of the investigation.



A small excavator was used as part of the Brockington & Associates archaeological investigations adjacent to the James Buchanan Cemetery. The photo at right reveals a ca 1950s water line, but no signs of human graves. July 6, 2011, photos looking north towards Elm Hill Pike from the Buchanan Cemetery by BLH Joe Cathey.

New Members

- Mr. William E. Gregory
- Mr. Willard L. Hall
- Ms. Lilly Hsu
- Ms. Gale Link
- Ms. Edcois C. Norfleet
- Ms. Meredith (Nan) Ottenbacher
- Ms. Alma Phillips
- Dr. Eric Raefsky
- Ms. Kathy Ray
- Mrs. Judy Sharpe
- Ms. Norma A. Stephens
- Ms. M. Sue Sutton
- Mr. Thomas J. Wells, Jr.
- Ms. Joy C. Whitworth
- Mr. William E. Whitworth
- Mr. Zachary E. Whitworth
- Ms. Alicia D. Williams
- Ms. Ethel-Lonniell M. Williams



Welcome Old Time Dulcimer Club to the Buchanan Log House.
Photo by Old Time Dulcimer Club