

The Bugle



The Bugle, a publication of the Brentwood Historical Society

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Brentwood Historical Society
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HISTORIC COMMISSION TACKLES MAJOR CEMETERIES SURVEY

BY JOE LASSUS

The Brentwood Historic Commission is most fortunate to have enlisted Kathie Greaves as one of its newest board members. Kathie is an avid genealogist, and recog-

nizes our City's historic cemeteries as an invaluable resource in tracing family heritage, as well as the history of Brentwood at large. Enlisting the help of Carole Crigger and Cheryl Fromhold, Kathie Greaves is coordinating a massive project to document the historic cemeteries of Brentwood.

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Before much more of this historic resource disappears, the group will be identifying the remaining graveyards of Brentwood. The effort expects to locate sixty of the some one hundred known cemeteries in the



Kathie Greaves, right, and Cheryl Fromhold, left, examine headstones

CEMETERIES SURVEY...(CONTINUED)

City, finding those still visible and able to be located at this time. Many of these sites have not been visited in thirty to fifty years.

Given the scope of the project, Kathie and the Historic Commission recognize that this is likely a three-year effort. Much of the labor is practically limited to the cool season months given the insects and undergrowth of warmer times. Wonderful progress has been made in the first season of work. And, eight additional volunteers have been enlisted in the effort, working in groups of two to three per assignment.

Essentially, the field project will both map and photograph the cemeteries. Using a handheld GPS (global positioning system) device, grave locations will be loaded



into the City's computer mapping GIS (Geographic Information Systems) database. Scott Summers of the Brentwood GIS section is producing the map for this project which will afford computer linkage to related historical information. Digital photographs of the existing headstones provide a complementing component of the emerging resource.

The group has used existing references related to historic cemeteries in the area as a baseline for their efforts. One source, entitled *Cemeteries 101*, was compiled by Vance Little, and its title refers to the number of known cemeteries in Brentwood. Another major source was written during the 1960-70's by Lula Fain (Williamson County Histori-



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(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!

Thank you for your support !

We truly appreciate the wonderful response to our annual dues request which goes toward helping support the many objectives of the Brentwood Historic Commission.

scheduling four speaker program events. The first event is June 30th at 6:30pm in the Brentwood Library when historian Thomas Cartwright will speak on "Sex and the Civil War," a program once aired on television.

Mary Lou Gallagher's **Historic Tapes Committee** has completed an impressive number of historic video interviews. Copies are in the Brentwood Library for use by the community. They include fifteen episodes of "Conversations at Concord House," the Historic Brentwood video, and unedited DVD recordings of fifty-eight people and topics pertaining to Brentwood's history.

The **Fundraising Committee** is involved in several projects throughout the year to

raise money for our projects. To volunteer call Sherry Hammond at 776-1438. Meanwhile, Arlene Cooke's **Historic Brochure Committee** is working on updating the information and format of the various historic brochures. And, Linda Hirsch's **Publicity Committee** is working on publicizing the many historic events sponsored by the Brentwood Historic Commission.

These efforts are pursued under the direction of newly elected officers Anne Laine Goad, Chairman; Sherry Hammond, Vice Chairman; and Kathie Greaves, Secretary. The Board is ably supported by City Historian Vance Little, City Commissioner Anne Dunn, and City staff member Linda Lynch.

HISTORIC STACKED STONE WALLS PRESERVED ON WILSON PIKE

BY JOE LASSUS



tuity through a historic preservation easement approved by the City Attorney. At some future date, Wilson Pike will likely be improved, and the new position of the historic wall will now be removed from any road building impacts.

The repositioning of the wall was a condition of approval for the development, following consideration by the Brentwood Historic Commission. This development condition called for a careful hand reconstruction of the wall, following the historical construction techniques of the earlier time period. This project is just one exam-

Those that travel Wilson Pike north of Concord Road may have noticed the historic preservation effort at the site of the new Borgata subdivision. This project is the result of another recent accomplishment of the Brentwood Historic Commission. Following a special provision within the Brentwood zoning ordinance, the Brentwood Historic Commission reviews new developments to guide any needed preservation of existing historical or archeological resources on affected property.

In the case of Borgata, an existing stacked stone wall along Wilson Pike was carefully moved from the roadway right-of-way, and shifted to the development property. It will be protected in perpet-

ple of the type of preservation oversight that has been ongoing throughout the City in recent years under the direction of the Historic Commission.



cal Society). This three volume work is entitled, *Williamson County Burials*. Note that the current effort has already recorded a number of gravestones not previously noted in these earlier works.

The key value of this project relates to its importance to genealogists who are documenting family and community histories. All of the collected information will be posted on the Brentwood website under "History," and will be available at the Brentwood Library for review. Information will also be absorbed on larger statewide websites. The information will afford the important links through a family history so vital in an accurate genealogical record. Many of these links have been lost until now.

This undertaking by the Brentwood Historic Commission is invaluable due to the gradual disappearance of Brentwood's historic cemeteries through the years. These sites were first impacted by farming practices, and now face the effects of the current development boom. Fortunately, state law protects cemeteries and grave sites, and current city planning practice in Brentwood places a very high priority on these historic sites. Their long term protection is addressed through strong preservation conditions prior to development permitting.

Brentwood is most fortunate that the Brentwood Historic Commission has taken on this task. If you are interested in assisting, you can contact Kathie Greaves at DRGREMA1@aol.com or 776-2268.



Carole Crigger, left, and Cheryl Fromhold, right, make progress on the project.

PRIMM HISTORIC PARK HOSTS OPEN HOUSE AND DEDICATES A NEW HISTORIC MARKER

May 4th proved to be a beautiful day at Primm Park for the dedication of a new historic marker. Brentwood turned out in great numbers to celebrate a special open house event at their historic crown jewel,



Pictured above is one of the park donors, Charley Primm, taking a short respite within the refurbished school house. Left, the crowd begins to arrive at Primm Park for the festivities. Below, Brentwood City Commission members assemble for the new marker dedication; pictured from left to right are Joe Sweeney, Joe Reagan, Paul Webb, Anne Dunn, and Betsy Crossley.



the Boiling Spring Academy.

The event heralded the upcoming activities of the **Boiling Spring Academy Docent Committee** of the Brentwood Historic Commission (other committee work is detailed in the following article). Beginning in May, the academy will be open to the public on the third Sunday afternoon of each month, May through October from 2:00 to 4:00. If interested in becoming a docent, please contact Kathie Greaves at 776-2268. Periodic training sessions are scheduled.



BRENTWOOD HISTORIC COMMISSION COMMITTEES PLAN AN ACTIVE SEASON

BY LINDA LYNCH

The Brentwood Historic Commission reports a busy year so far highlighted by the **Boiling Spring Academy Program**. Some nine hundred third-graders stepped back in time for "A Day in 1845." The Commission developed a classroom program taught by retired teachers which includes penmanship, arithmetic (using slates and slate pencils), history, recitation, a spelling bee, and an activity book. For info on the program call Carole Crigger at

661-4231.

The **Historic Marker Committee** is in the process of completing an inventory of historic markers. They will assess the type and condition of existing markers and encourage new signage where opportunities exist. They will also provide GPS (global positioning system) location information of each marker for a special city map. Volunteers are welcome to assist; please contact Gil Hutchinson at 372-3558.

The **Community Outreach Committee** has some excellent activities planned for the coming year with craft classes and speakers on the agenda. On May 7th, Sharon Wnuk taught the first of four craft programs entitled, "How Did They Do That?" featuring hand-sewing technique. Judy Lawing and Tom Bain are



Historic Commission & Charley - Left to Right: Diane Sylvis, Sherry Hammond, Gil Hutchinson, Mary Lou Gallagher, Kathie Greaves, Judy Lawing, Anne Goad, Linda Lynch, Betsy Crossley, Carole Crigger, Anne Dunn, Tracey Blackwell, Sharon Wnuk, and Charley Primm

(continued page 7)
Historic Commission (continued)..