

# Richardson House

**Compiled members of by the Leadership Brentwood Class of 2008:**

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**The information was compiled from the following sources:**

- Family history and personal records of Karen Richardson, 2008
- Research and recollections of Vance Little, 2008

The Richardson House was build around 1909 on land acquired by James Lancelotte Richardson on March 23, 1908 from Henry and Letitia Pointer. The house is a bungalow style with a stone foundation, brick walls and chimneys, and the original tin roof. It contains 2,727 square feet of living space, 1,859 on the first floor and 868 on the second floor. The house originally had front, side and back entrances. When the front stairs crumbled, they were removed and not replaced. The original means of heating was via fireplaces in the main rooms. The fireplaces remain but space heaters have also been added. Water is provided from a cistern on the back porch which filters rain water collected from the roof. The house sits on 9.2 acres of land remaining from the original net purchase of 59 acres.

James Lancelotte (Lanty) Richardson (May 10, 1859-September 18, 1941) was the youngest child of Joe Richardson, who moved to Tennessee from North Carolina in 1832, and Mary Elizabeth Sangster. On June 3, 1896, Lanty married his first cousin, Sallie Owen Johnston (February 12, 1866-August 20, 1927). Their common grandfather was John Sangster. John Sangster's other daughter, Martha, was married to Lancelot Johnston.

Lanty and Sallie started their married life in Brownsville, Tennessee where Lanty worked as a "drummer" for Gayoso Oil Company of Memphis for seven months of the year and pursued other commercial activities during his months off. His employment with Gayoso ended in 1898 and in early 1899, he and Sallie sold their Brownsville home and moved. Sallie was relieved and happy to get back to Williamson County which is where she grew up. Her mother, Martha Ann Sangster, had married Lancelotte Johnston in 1859 and her family had lived on the land that her great grandparents had settled.

In 1909, Lanty, Sallie and their seven year old son, Samuel Lancelot Richardson, moved to the Richardson House in Brentwood. At that time, the address was known as RR 5, Franklin.

The family name Lancelotte is spelled as such in family records but is also spelled as Lancelot, Launcelotte, and Lancelotte on deeds and death certificates.

Lanty was engaged in farming and real estate development. Samuel graduated from David Lipscomb College in 1922 and was a farmer. Sallie died at the home on August 20, 1927 at the age of 61. On October 4, 1933, Samuel married Gladys Alene Meadors (April 22, 1905-February 12, 1995) of Nashville and brought her to live at the family home.

The Johnston's were founders and long-time members of the Owen Chapel Church of Christ, located just a short distance south of the Richardson House. Lancelot Johnston was the secretary of the congregation, a role later filled by his grandson, Samuel Lancelot Richardson, Sr. The church was noteworthy for the long-standing custom of segregated seating, with the men on one side of the isle and the women on the other. Upon their

marriage, Samuel Sr. and his wife Gladys were the first of the opposite sex to sit together in the church, starting a trend that gradually reversed the traditional segregated seating.

Samuel Sr. converted the upstairs area of the house into an apartment with a living room, dining room, kitchen, bathroom and bedroom. This was done to accommodate Gladys's mother, Mary Belle West Meadors, and her sister Elizabeth Meadors. They moved into the upstairs after they lost their Nashville house in the Depression.

Samuel and Gladys had a son, Samuel Lancelot Richardson, Jr., on October 26, 1936. Samuel Lancelot Richardson, Jr. grew up in this house and graduated as valedictorian in 1958 from David Lipscomb College. He subsequently received his J.D. degree from the Vanderbilt Law School in 1962. He lived in Manhattan, New York, where he worked as an insurance broker. He married Karen Bedrosian Richardson on June 26, 1982 and died on April 26, 1988. His parents continued to live in the house until their deaths, Samuel on November 18, 1993 and Gladys on February 12, 1995.

This house is still in the Richardson family and was continuously occupied by family members from its construction in 1909 until 1995.