



NEWSLETTER Number 17

March – April 2014

The Friends of Two Rivers Mansion, a 501(c)(3) organization 3130 - McGavock Pike, Nashville, TN 37214

**Message from Board President, Jeff Syracuse** - The excitement about the renovated Two Rivers Mansion was quite apparent at our first event of 2014, the Two Hearts Antiques & Crafts Show. It was a big success with the largest crowd yet who shopped with our many vendors located on both floors. Thank you to everyone who attended to tour the mansion, shop with our vendors and discover the value of some of your treasures that you brought to have appraised. Some of our vendors have already signed up for this event again next year in 2015. The mansion has also become a very popular place to hold events as some have already been booked for 2015 as well. If you're interested in hosting your event or wedding at the mansion, there is no other place around like it where your fee for the event becomes a tax-deductible membership that supports our continued efforts to restore and preserve this beautiful home and property. Stay tuned for some big news coming up in the months ahead about an exciting Music at the Mansion 2014 summer series! We look forward to seeing you at our next event on Sunday, May 18, which is our annual "Phil the House with Art & Friends", this year featuring the work of Pat Johnson. Thank you for your continued support!

#### Two Hearts Antiques Show Continues to Grow –



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### **Mansion History –**

Ownership of the Two Rivers was transferred to Spence McGavock, in 1907. He had very little interest in the farm's operation and leased the property out while he worked as a salesman in the north until he returned to live there following his marriage to Mary Louise Bransford in 1928. His father Frank continued to live at the Mansion until his death on Oct 17, 1920.

Mary Louise Bransford was the daughter of William and Manoah Bransford of Melrose in the south of Davidson County. She was born October 28, 1878 and was educated at Ward Seminary for Young Ladies in Nashville. Following her graduation her parents paid for an extended chaperoned period of travel in Europe prior to her debut into Nashville society in early 1900.

Miss Bransford married Hugh Kirkman in 1902. Hugh was the son of Vanleer Kirkham who was one of the principals responsible for the promotion of the Tennessee Centennial Exposition of 1897. Although there is no record of a divorce the census of 1911 recorded Mrs. Kirkham as a resident of the Bransford home of Melrose. Mr. Kirkham died in 1927 and Mary Louise was re-married in March 29, 1928 to Spence McGavock. Prior to moving to his inheritance the Two Rivers Farm they modernized the Mansion with electricity, plumbing and a steam heating system. The couple were married for 7 years and didn't have any children. Spence suffered a heart attack and died on the back veranda of the Mansion on December 4, 1936. Following Spence's death Mary Louise moved back to her family home of Melrose where she lived until her return to Two Rivers in 1954.

**Calendar of Events for 2014 –** The events listed below are also available on the Events Page of our website at [www.friendsoftworivers.org](http://www.friendsoftworivers.org).

Sunday, May 18 - Phil the House With Art and Friends – May 18 (featured artist this year is Pat Johnson)

Music at the Mansion –

Thursday, June 12 – The Nashville Symphony (there is not charge for this event)

Saturday, June 21 – The Moonlighters big band orchestra does an encore at the Mansion

Saturday, July 19 – TBA

Saturday, August 16 – The Nashville Blues Society returns for a third season

These are outdoor events and attendees are encouraged to bring lawn chairs/blankets for the lawn. Coolers and snacks are allowed but excellent on site catered food is also available from RoseMary Lane Catering. Admission to each of these music events is \$5 per person or \$20 maximum per car. These are must dates for every calendar and don't forget; admission is free for Friends members who show a current membership card.

**Historic tours of the Mansion –** In late April or early May the Mansion will be open for tours during the week. Details are still being worked as to the day(s) and hours. One of the big

challenges to providing multiple dates and times for Mansion tours hinges on the availability of knowledgeable guides to staff the schedule. Docent training is available for those who would like to get involved with the Friends in this way and anyone interested in receiving this docent training can contact Phil Claiborne for details. The e-mail for contact for information is [phil.claiborne@nashville.gov](mailto:phil.claiborne@nashville.gov) or you can call 889-2907 for information.

**Friends of Two Rivers Merchandise** – Friends related merchandise is available at all Friend’s sponsored events as well as from the website. Items available for purchase includes prints of the Mansion and 1802 House, note cards, Friends of Two Rivers T-shirts in a variety of colors, tote bags as well as a number of salvaged items from the restoration. The recently published booklet entitled *Dr. Clara C. Plimpton McGavock: An Unlikely Mistress of Two Rivers* is also now available. The proceeds from the sale of these items goes to support the work of the Friends of Two Rivers and all purchases are tax deductible.

**Memberships** – Memberships for “The Friends of Two Rivers” are available in categories that range from a minimum of \$20 a year up to corporate memberships of \$2,000 a year. **All membership fees are considered donations and are, therefore, tax deductible.** The **Basic Memberships** are listed below and anyone that might be interested in using the Mansion for an event can choose from one of **Event Membership** categories which will be determined at a time of consultation with the Two Rivers Mansion Events Coordinator, Laura Carrillo. She can be reached at 615-885-1112 or [laura.carrillo@nashville.gov](mailto:laura.carrillo@nashville.gov).

**BASIC Membership** for Friends of Two Rivers Mansion includes:

- I. Senior citizen or Student - \$20 annual or \$55 for 3 years
- II. Individual - \$25 annual or \$65 for 3 years
- III. Family - \$50 or \$125 for 3 years

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is \$\_\_\_\_\_ for my tax-deductible membership.

Make check payable to: The Friends of Two Rivers

Mail check to: 3130 McGavock Pike, Nashville, TN 37214

*Phil Claiborne*

Founder