



THE FRIENDS OF _____
**TWO RIVERS
 MANSION**

NEWSLETTER Number 18

July – August 2014

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



Message from Board President, Jeff Syracuse - Since the inaugural Music at the Mansion concert in 2011, on a veranda that was in dire need of repair, the Two Rivers Mansion has since not only been fully restored to a beautiful state not seen since the late 1800's, but our music concerts have also become more popular and of higher quality. Our 2014 concerts so far with The Nashville Symphony and The Moonlighters each brought a defining element of Music City to Donelson and we look forward to offering more of these experiences to our visitors. We hope to see you soon at one of the two remaining Music at the Mansion events and also invite you to come visit and take a guided tour of the over 200 years of history that has taken place here. Thank you for your continued support!

Mansion History – Mary Louise Bransford McGavock died on November 22, 1965 and her body was interred at Mt Olivet Cemetery off Lebanon Road just east of the city. Since she was the last surviving McGavock heir her will named numerous family members, friends and employees as beneficiaries and also instructed that the estate be sold and the proceeds be used to establish an endowment fund named in honor of her father, William Bransford, for the operation and/or expansion of the work of the Division of Hematology at Vanderbilt Hospital and Medical School.

Her death came during the time when the newly consolidated Metro Government of Nashville and Davidson County was looking for potential park space in the eastern portion of what had been county area and the decision was made by the Park Board to purchase the 460 acres that remained of the estate. A federal Open Space Land Grant match funded one-half of the \$924,066 purchase. The Metro Board of Education subsequently paid \$94,500 for thirty acres of the tract in 1970 for the construction of McGavock High School. Two Rivers High School (now Two Rivers Middle School) had been built in 1960 to the north of the Mansion on 26 acres sold to the city by Mrs. McGavock for \$57,780. Forty-five acres were designated as roadway for the

construction of Two Rivers Parkway which connects Briley Parkway to McGavock Pike and the remainder of the estate was developed as park property, including a golf course, ball diamonds, picnic areas, and Wave Country which opened in the summer of 1980.

The Mansion was set aside on its own fourteen acre tract to create a perfect centerpiece that reflects the history and grandeur of the 1880's and the thriving 1100 acre estate known as The Two Rivers Stock Farm.

Music at the Mansion Events for 2014 – The first of this year's "Music at the Mansion" series took place on Thursday evening June 12th with an appearance by the Nashville Symphony. Well over 1,200 folks enjoyed a near perfect evening of weather and great music and the early indicators are that we can expect to see the symphony return in 2015. The month of June was ushered out by an encore performance by the 20 piece Moonlighters Big Band orchestra who entertained the crowd with tunes from the 1930's thru the 1950's.



The next Music at the Mansion event will take place on Saturday, July 19th. Musicians from two Donelson area churches (The River and The Donelson Fellowship) will be present for an evening devoted to God and Country.



Both churches will be selling tickets for this event and will share the proceeds with the Mansion. Tickets are \$5 per person and although admission can be paid upon entering the Mansion property you are encouraged to obtain tickets in advance from one of the churches (The more tickets they sell the more they make for their music programs). The music will begin shortly after 7 pm and will be a mix of patriotic, hymns, gospel and praise songs. As always, bring your lawn chair and blankets and arrive early to secure a good spot on the lawn. Pack a

picnic or enjoy the offerings of Rose Mary Lane Catering but most of all, plan to be there and join the celebration as we focus on our nation, our freedoms and the blessings God has given us as citizens of the greatest nation.

Friday tours at the Mansion – On Friday afternoons from 1 pm to 4 pm the Mansion is open for tours. (Hours for Friday, July 4th will be from noon to 4 pm) Each tour last between 45 minutes to an hour and covers the history of the property as well as information about the three McGavock families who have made the Mansion their home. You will also learn of the family connections with other prominent Nashville area families such as the Hardings, the Spences and the Bransfords and you can learn of the circumstances that led to the Mansion almost being sold on the courthouse steps. The cost is \$5 per person for non members and Friends members are free by showing the membership card.

In order to schedule more days and times for the Mansion to be open to the public we need an adequate number of guides to staff the schedule as well as support volunteers to greet guest and collect the admission as they arrive. Docent training is available for those who would like to get involved with the Friends in this way and anyone interested in receiving the training can schedule a convenient time to begin. Anyone interested in the docent training or in the support role can contact Phil Claiborne for details. The e-mail to contact for information is phil.claiborne@nashville.gov or you can call 889-2907 for more information.

Friends Gift Shoppe – Next time you are at the Mansion you will be able to find Friends merchandise in the newly created gift shoppe located in the 1802 House. 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. Any of these items would be great to add to your personal collection and would also make great gifts for someone special in your life. 100% of the proceeds from the sale of Mansion merchandise goes directly into the promotion and upkeep of the Mansion and can be considered as a tax deductible donation. We are now able to accept payment from all your credit cards via SQUARE in addition to cash or check.

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 or \$3,000 for two years. **All membership fees are considered donations and are, therefore, tax deductible.** The **Basic Memberships** are listed below and anyone 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 .

Since all Friends events are free to members, the cost of membership is more than covered if you attend all the events that are offered during the year. Memberships also make a great gift for friends and relatives to enjoy all during the membership year.

BASIC Membership for Friends of Two Rivers Mansion includes:
I. Senior citizen or Student - \$20 annual or \$55 for 3 years

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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