



NEWSLETTER Number 12

April - May 2013

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

Message from Board President, Phil Howard –“The calendar shows it is officially spring; however, to venture outside without proper attire would be a chilling experience. The good news is that it looks like spring at Two Rivers Mansion; the gleaming, restored exterior walls of the mansion; the shimmering new windows and casing in the 1802 House. We even have a beautiful new roof on the gazebo. Our first Friends sponsored event of the spring is scheduled for May 19, Phil the House; a wonderful display of art. Next will be our season opener of the Music at the Mansion Series; the Series this year consists of four concerts, June through September.

If you have not yet had the opportunity to join Friends of Two Rivers Mansion and would like to be involved, membership materials are available at all Friends sponsored events.”

Restoration Work continues into Phase 4 – Part of the phase 4 work will include the construction of an ADA approved ramp near the back of the house on the north side. Prior to that work beginning a gas line and meter had to be relocated and the concrete curb/grate where the AC condensing unit is located will be demoed in order for digging of the concrete footings for the ADA ramp. This work will also include the demolition of the side porch lattice work since a new handicap entrance into the Mansion will be established there. Restoration of the stone steps at this entrance has also been completed.

All the window repair has been completed on the 1802 and they have been hung in addition to new shutters for each window. Restoration work on the 1802 House will also include new rear steps and the masonry repair will begin on the foundation and lower courses of brick when

temperatures stabilize above freezing. All exterior wood on the house will be primed and painted also as soon as the temperature warms sufficiently to do so.

The old gazebo roof shingles have been removed and installation of the new shake shingles and ridge cap have been completed.

Other items included in Phase 4 are the installation of exterior lighting on the front façade of the Mansion as well as repair work on the built in gutter system. The gutter repair will include a new copper gutter pan that will be installed with expansion joints which will prevent the expanding and contracting that's responsible for cracking the soldered seams.

Membership Has Its Privilege – Friends of Two Rivers members are admitted free to all Friends events at the Mansion by showing the membership card. That makes the cost of membership a great investment and you will not miss any of the exciting things planned for the 2013 program year. Take this opportunity to mark your calendar now for the following dates:

Sunday, May 19 - Phil the House with Art and Friends (annual membership meeting)

Saturday, June 15 - Music at the Mansion (Rock n' Roll)

Saturday, July 20 - Music at the Mansion (Big Band)

Saturday, August 17 - Music at the Mansion (Nashville Blues Society)

Saturday, Sept. 7 - Music at the Mansion (Contemporary Christian)

Saturday Oct 26 - Halloween at the Mansion

Friday, Saturday, Sunday, December 13, 14, 15 - Historic Holiday Tours

Plans are currently under way to have the Mansion open for tours on a limited basis during the late spring and summer. Details should be available for the May newsletter.

Mansion History – In the last newsletter it was noted that William Harding purchased the 1802 House and the surrounding land in 1819. He was the brother of John Harding who was the owner and builder of Belle Meade Mansion to the west of Nashville. The farm was named after the "Two Rivers" that formed the east and west boundaries of the 1100 acre estate and which are located approximately one mile apart.

William married Elizabeth Clopton and moved into the 1802 House shortly after their marriage in 1830 and he died shortly before their first child was born in 1832. This left Elizabeth as an 18 year widow in her 8th month of pregnancy and living on the edge of the wilderness.

The baby was expected to be a boy and the couple had planned to name him after his father. Instead, a little girl was born and she was named after her father as planned. She was named Mary William Elizabeth Harding but would be known as Willie.

Since Elizabeth had no desire to stay at Two Rivers alone with her child she moved to her aunt and uncle, John Clopton's home at Spring Place. When Willie was two, her mother remarried Francis (Frank) Owen, a Methodist minister serving in Memphis. Willie grew up in Memphis as a young girl and at the appropriate time, the Owens sent her back to Nashville to attend the

Nashville Female Academy. During her time in Nashville she would visit the family at Belle Meade where she met her first cousin David McGavock. David was grandson of John Harding. His mother was John's daughter, Amanda Harding. She married Francis (Frank) McGavock in 1823 and they lived on land adjoining Belle Meade. Willie's visits there proved to be a breeding ground for young love that would lead to her marriage to David in 1850.

Members are encouraged to get involved as a volunteer- It goes without saying that producing a year of events at the Mansion is a lot of work. Much of that work to date has been shouldered by the Board of Directors and and some willing spouses. One way to get the most out of your Friends membership is to involve yourself as a volunteer. Multiple opportunities are open on various committees that are diverse enough to cover most interest areas. In addition to Event committee work (planning, set up, event support, clean up) other areas include Membership, Fundraising/Sponsorship, Marketing, Nominating, and volunteer enlistment. Each of these committees have a Board member as chair and plenty of room for interested members who want to be involved. Please consider serving in some capacity. If you need more information before deciding just make your questions known by return e-mail and someone will follow up with you.

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. Corporate membership levels and benefits can be explained by contacting Mrs. Carrillo or any member of the Friends Board.

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

Most events at the Mansion that have an admission fee but are free to members who show their membership card.

New Merchandise and Credit Cards – Friends related merchandise will be 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. We are able to accept credit cards for the purchase of Friends merchandise as well as for membership fees. The website at www.friendsoftworiversmansion.org or www.friendsoftworiversmansion.com also offers a PayPal link for the purchase of merchandise in addition to paying for memberships. Donations can also be made using the PayPal link.

Phil Claiborne

Founder