



NEWSLETTER Number 20

November - December 2014

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

Message from Board President, Jeff Syracuse - On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Friends of Two Rivers Mansion, I'd like to give my sincere thanks to our sponsors, members, and the thousands of visitors who have been instrumental this past year in making the Two Rivers Mansion a premier historic site in Tennessee. Our recent Halloween at the Mansion event brought over 1,200 visitors alone. This past year has seen significant milestones in our efforts at continued preservation and raising awareness of the 1859 Mansion, 1802 House, and beautiful 14-acre property, such as opening our Music at the Mansion series with the inaugural visit from The Nashville Symphony and the restoration of the boxwood gardens and fountain. Our summer tours brought both brand new visitors and those that hadn't been back in years. All our visitors were amazed at the beauty of the mansion and wonderful restoration progress. These personal stories of thanks along with hearing about new memories created from the numerous weddings and events held at the mansion speaks to the success our Friends group has achieved in making the Two Rivers Mansion "a crown jewel of the Donelson community". It has been my honor to serve as President this past year and I am excited about the many milestones yet to come in the years ahead. We deeply appreciate your continued support and involvement and look forward to welcoming you back soon, especially at our upcoming Holiday Historic Tours during the weekend of December 12-14.

Mansion History - Two Rivers Mansion was the centerpiece of the Two Rivers Farm or Two Rivers Stock Farm. At the height of its operation the property exceeded 1,100 acres that supported numerous farming operations but the identifying mark of the Two Rivers Farm was the Morgan Horse operation the farm became known for. The Morgan Horse is one of the earliest horse breeds developed in the US and traces back to the foundation sire, Figure, who was later named Justin Morgan after his best known owner. The Morgan is a



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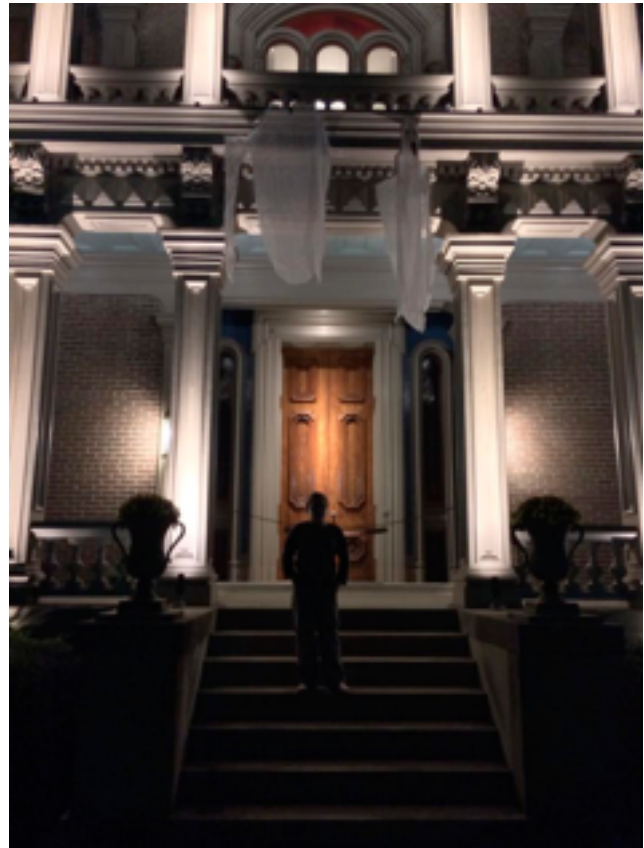
compact breed, generally bay, black or chestnut in color, although they can be found in variations of pinto. During the 19th century Morgans served many roles as coach horses, for harness racing, general riding stock, and as cavalry horses for both sides during the Civil War. Morgans had a significant influence on other American breeds including the American Quarter Horse, the Tennessee Walking Horse and the Standardbred.

Restoration continues at the Mansion - After spending almost 2 years on the complete restoration of the exteriors of the Mansion and the 1802 House, work is now in progress to restore the boxwood garden inside the circular drive. The work is being done by JVI Water Gardens and Garden Center and is being underwritten by a donation from a relative of Mary Louise Bransford McGavock, the surviving McGavock widow who died in November 1965. The photos show the progression of the work. Later in November the boxwoods will get one more



mild trimming and several mature plants will be transplanted into the existing voids where plants are currently missing.

Halloween at the Mansion - The 2014 Halloween at the Mansion was a great evening for kids and adults of all ages. Many thanks go out to the 19 local churches and businesses that assisted with the Candy Trail for trick or treating around the circular drive and to all the volunteers from BSA Troop 777, McGavock High School and the Wyndham



Nashville Resort for assisting with the hay, ghost stories in the Mansion, the haunted basement, pumpkin painting and the inflatables for the kids. The weather was perfect and the crowd numbered in the 1600 vicinity.

Holiday tours at the Mansion - The next Friends sponsored event at the Mansion will take place on the second weekend of December. Holiday tours of the Mansion will be offered on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, December 12-13-14. This event follows an event hosted by the Stones River Women's Club on the first weekend and gives us an opportunity to showcase the home while it's decked out in period holiday decoration while explaining the history behind the three generations of McGavocks and the property that was known as the Two Rivers Farm. Admission is \$5 per person and Friends members are admitted free by showing a current membership card

Friends Gift Shoppe - One of the recent changes that has taken place at the Mansion is the creation of a gift shoppe which is located in the 1802 House. Any time there is a Friends sponsored event the shoppe will be open for information related to memberships and use of the property. A variety of Items are available for purchase including 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 a friend or 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 able to accept your payments from all 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
- 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