



THE FRIENDS OF
TWO RIVERS
MANSION

NEWSLETTER Number 37

July - Aug 2017

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

President Marilyn Swing's Remarks - Spring at Two Rivers Mansion is a beautiful and very busy season, and this year that's particularly the case. The calendar is filled with weddings every weekend, and on April 28th The Friends of Two Rivers Mansion hosted its second annual "Evening of Elegance" to showcase this beautiful historic landmark to over 100 guests. In May, the annual "Phil the House", reception and art show gave guests the opportunity enjoy the unique metal work creations of Keith Herndon.

Most importantly, some very visible enhancements to the Mansion property have taken place over the last couple of months following recommendations in the new Master Plan for the property. We are eager for everyone to drive by and see what has been added; we think you will be as pleased as we are! We are especially grateful for the generosity of Mr. William Blundin for the support he provided to enable us to proceed so quickly in making these very special additions.

We appreciate your continuing interest in Two Rivers Mansion and its history, and we look forward to your next visit very soon.

Property History - For more than a hundred years following Euro-American expansion into the Cumberland River Valley, the area referred to as the 'ox-bow', which was surrounded on three sides by the Cumberland River and just six miles northeast of the French Lick Station (Nashville), was known as McSpaddens' Bend. The name McSpadden referred to one of the earliest settlers, Thomas McSpadden. In the fall of 1785, McSpadden, a veteran of the American Revolution, moved with his wife, Mary, from Washington County, Virginia, to the Cumberland settlements where he purchased 95 acres in the lower river bend.

During his service in the Virginian militia during the summer of 1777 he had fought against the Shawnee Indians, British allies, after their raids along the Clinch river in the southwest corner of the state which resulted in the deaths of several settlers. The end of the war pushed him west. In 1809 he added to his homestead when he bought an additional 63 acres. His final purchases in the years that followed increased his holding in the bend to a total of 239 acres. McSapadden then moved further up the river in 1809-1810 to Wilson county where he purchased 400 acres. The bend retained McSapadden's name, however, until the late 19th Century.

Mayor Barry Visits the Mansion - In early May Councilman Jeff Syracuse, Parks liaison for the Mansion, Laura Carrillo, and Friends Founder, Phil Claiborne, had the privilege of hosting Mayor Megan Barry for a visit at the Mansion. During a walk

through of the Mansion and the 1802 House Mrs. Carrillo and Mr. Claiborne shared telling the story of the Harding-McGavock families at Two Rivers as well as the history of the property. Before her departure the group visited the wooded area immediately behind the Mansion to look at the site of an event center that was one of the major recommendations



of the Master Plan which was completed in 2016.

As a follow up to this visit, the Mayor's recommendation to the Metro Council for the coming fiscal year's Capital Spending Plan includes money for the planning and design phase for the event center. Once this first phase is complete the Center will be on track for the construction bidding process which could possibly begin in early 2019. Once completed, this Event Center will allow the Friends group to offer a large variety of events, programs and activities that the limitations of the Mansion do not currently allow for. The Center would also serve as a civic meeting place for the community which does not currently exist the 15th Council District.

Changes at the 1802 House - In late April a weather system moved across the Nashville area and as it passed over the Two Rivers property one of the wind gusts took aim at the large Hackberry that has stood on the east end of the 1802 House for decades. Fortunately the tree fell due north and did no any damage to either the the House or the Mansion. The biggest loss will be the shade that many have enjoyed during symphony performances and other Music at the Mansion events. On the positive side, the 1802 House is in a more historically accurate setting now

that it stands in the open as it most likely did during the time of it's construction.

Other more positive changes with the 1802 House involve its inclusion in the



summer tour program. For the past two years the house has first gone through an inside renovation in which plaster repair and painting have occurred. Then it

became a source for storage of items from two historic sites that were no longer open. Some of these items have now been staged in the 1802 House to give a glimpse of what life was like in the early 1800's. If you have, or haven't, taken a Mansion tour, now is the time to make it a point to do so. This addition gives an entirely new perspective as to the early years of the Two Rivers Plantation.

Board Vacancies - Each year a portion of the current Friends Board rotates off after having served a maximum of two-three year terms. The terms are concurrent with the calendar which means the next rotation will come at the end of 2017. In order to fill these vacancies a nominating committee will be working over the next few months to find suitable candidates who have an interest in the Mansion and the work of the Board. If you are interested in being considered for one of the vacant Board seats you must first be a member of the Friends group and then have a willingness to be actively engaged in the work of the Board. To begin that process an abbreviated resume should be submitted via e-mail to sgt08@bellsouth.net. Information should include a statement of why you would like to serve on the Board in addition at a brief summary of what you feel your greatest contribution as a Board member would be. Familiarity with historic venue operation is helpful but other areas such as media, advertising, grant writing, events planning, legal, research, archeology, etc. are also important to the work of the Board. Interested parties should submit their e-mail information within the next few weeks to sgt08@bellsouth.net and mark the subject line as 'Friends Board'.

Volunteer Opportunities - One of the recommendations of the Master Plan for Two Rivers was to provide educational opportunities for school students in the area. Looking at the options, there are at least 5, perhaps 6, areas that could be spotlighted for school field trips and which fit within the Tennessee Curriculum Guidelines. Two of those areas have been identified as priorities and one has already been formalized with teacher materials. This subject is unique to a limited

number of locations and deals with the Mississippian Indian Culture, or Stone Box Indians as they are sometimes referred to. Numerous sites of Stone Box grave sites have been unearthed on the former plantation acreage which puts the Friends group in a unique position to teach history where history actually occurred.

In order to offer field trip experiences beginning with the start of the coming school year, volunteers will be needed to assist Friend's Board members in the conduct these experiences. Since this is the first time to offer this expanded offering, schools will be limited to the immediate Donelson area public and private grade schools. Volunteers would assist in monitoring groups during presentations and also during hands on experiences such as the sampling of Mississippian foods. Total time involvement is projected to be a maximum of 2 - 3 hours.

An information/training session will be held for those interested in late July or early August at the Mansion. Those who have an interest in helping with this type of learning experience should make their interest known by replying to this newsletter e-mail. Please provide your name and phone number and whether you are available on a limited basis or not.

Mark the Calendar - The Vintage Market Antique event will return to the Mansion on September 8th, 9th and 10th. This has been one of the most popular non-music events at the Mansion and it promises to be even better this year than before. It's definitely something to put on the calendar to look forward to.

Membership - Membership with the Friends of Two Rivers Mansion is one of the best deals in Nashville. Memberships 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.** Friends members are admitted free at all Friends sponsored events at the Mansion upon presentation of a current membership card. Those events include, but are not limited to, the winter antique show in the Mansion, all Music at the Mansion programs, Halloween at the Mansion and historic tours of the property. Admission to these events range from \$5 to \$10 per person so its easy to see that a basic membership cost far less than the combined admissions. Parking is free and traffic is not a problem, and, your support enables the organization to continue offering more opportunities, while at the same time, continuing the restoration and preservation work that's at the heart of our mission statement.

The **Basic** categories are listed below and anyone interested in using the Mansion for a wedding or other large event can choose from one of **Event Membership or Supporting Membership** categories which will be determined at a time of a consultation with the Two Rivers Mansion Events Coordinator, Laura Carrillo. She can be reached at 615-885-1112 or laura.carrillo@nashville.gov .

The membership form below can also be used to secure a membership. The Friends of Two Rivers is a 501c3 organization which means that membership are tax deductible gifts to the organization.

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 \$_____ gift for my tax-deductible membership.

Checks should be made payable to Friends of Two Rivers Mansion and mailed to:
The Friends of Two Rives Mansion, 3130 McGavock, Nashville, TN 37214

Phil Claiborne

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