

Metropolitan Historical Commission

Newsletter ▪ February 2012



In This Issue:

Meet Our New Commissioners

**31st Annual Nashville Conference on African-American History and Culture,
Civil War Sesquicentennial Event,
African-American History Events at Metro Archives**

MHC/MHZC UPDATES

New! MHC Welcomes New Commissioners

Please join us in welcoming F. Clay Bailey, III, Jim Forkum, Lynn McDonald, Mark Rogers, and Gerry Searcy to the Metropolitan Historical Commission! We introduced Dr. Bailey, Mr. Forkum, and Ms. McDonald in our December 2011 newsletter. Now please meet Commissioners Mark Rogers and Gerry Searcy.

Mark Rogers was born in Harlan, KY, and moved to Clarksville as a child. After graduation from Clarksville High School, he attended Centre College, graduating with a Major in History and Minors in English Literature and Government.

For several years Mr. Rogers worked as Operations Manager for a local radio station. In 1994 he served as Issues Coordinator for the Sundquist for Governor Campaign. Following the election, he worked on welfare reform at the Departments of Human Services and Labor, and then worked on job training at the Department of Economic and Community Development. After serving in the Administration he worked as a consultant to various campaigns and to Comcast.

From 2004 until late 2011, Mr. Rogers was the State Director for Fight Crime: Invest in Kids, a national non-profit, working on issues relating to keeping at-risk children from falling into crime by giving them the best possible start in life. He explains, "What makes Fight Crime particularly effective is that rather than direct lobbying, we recruit law enforcement leaders to encourage federal and state legislators to make the right choices on these issues." From 2009 through 2011, he also served as State Director for Shepherding the Next Generation, a sibling of Fight Crime, which focuses on recruiting pastors to do similar advocacy. His hobbies include collecting books and writing.

Gerry Searcy is a native of Nashville. She graduated from two historic educational institutions - Pearl High School and Tennessee State University. While at Tennessee State University, she earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Political Science with a Minor in Psychology and a Master of Science Degree in Counseling Psychology. Ms. Searcy retired from the Metropolitan Criminal Court Clerk's Office as a Deputy Criminal Court Clerk, after 29 years of service. She was the first African American to

clerk in the Criminal Court of Davidson County, Tennessee. Twenty-five years ago she founded a Thanksgiving Program at Assumption Catholic Church along with her son. In the first year of the program, they cooked and delivered eight meals to elderly shut in individuals. The program has grown tremendously over the years; on Thanksgiving 2011, 500 volunteers prepared and delivered 1,800 dinners to elderly and disabled individuals in the Metro Nashville area.

After retiring from Metropolitan Government, Ms. Searcy's life has been dedicated to volunteer service in her church and community. She is excited about becoming a member of the Metropolitan Historical Commission and hopes to make a meaningful contribution by learning, preserving, and sharing the history of this great city.

Welcome to all of our new and returning Commissioners!

New! 31st Annual Nashville Conference on African-American History and Culture

Friday, February 10—8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Tennessee State University

Avon Williams Campus

10th and Charlotte, downtown

The Nashville Conference on African-American History and Culture returns for its 31st year on Friday, February 10, 2012. The conference program will **celebrate the Centennial of Tennessee State University**. Founded in 1912 as Tennessee Agricultural and Industrial State Normal School, TSU has been known as Tennessee State University since 1970. TSU offers bachelors, masters, and doctoral degrees in a variety of fields, and is known nationally for its academic and athletic excellence. Presentations at this year's conference will highlight the history of TSU, including the role of women administrators, student life, and athletics. TSU students and faculty will present musical selections, presented by both the TSU Jazz Ensemble and the TSU Meistersingers. We hope that you will join us in celebrating the contributions of Tennessee State University to Nashville, to the state, and to the nation.

Pre-registration closed on January 27 with record-breaking numbers, so we expect this year's conference to be filled to capacity. We look forward to hosting 60 eighth-grade students from John Early Museum Magnet Middle School and can't wait to see TSU alumni and fans wearing **TSU Blue!**

For more information about this award-winning annual conference, visit www.nashville.gov/mhc/conference.asp or call 615-862-7970.

New! Civil War Sesquicentennial Event

Saturday, February 18—8:30 a.m. to Noon

Little Theater, Fisk University

Mark your calendar and plan to join the Metropolitan Historical Commission for the second Civil War Sesquicentennial Symposium on Saturday, February 18, 2012. The event will take place at Fisk University, in the Little Theater, located on Dr. D. B. Todd Boulevard, near Jackson Street. This building was built as a Union Army barracks, and was one of the first structures used by Fisk University as it began after the Civil War. This most fitting place will host the event.

8:30 AM: Opening remarks will be made by Mayor Karl Dean, MHC Director Tim

Walker, and Dr. Reavis Mitchell, Dean of the School of Humanities and Social Sciences at Fisk University.

9:00 AM: Tim Smith, formerly with Shiloh National Battlefield Park and now with U. T. Martin, will speak on the fall of Forts Henry and Donelson.

9:45 AM: Break

10:00 AM: Dr. Carole Bucy, professor at Volunteer State Community College and Davidson County Historian, will then speak on The Great Panic, a period of great turmoil in the city following the fall of the two forts protecting the approach to the city.

10:45 AM: Break

11:00 AM: The 1861 Project, a musical production of songs inspired by the Civil War, brought to us by Thomm Jutz. Learn more by visiting <http://1861project.com>.

PRESERVATION AWARDS

New! Call for Nominations: 2012 Preservation Awards

Nomination forms are now available for the Metropolitan Historical Commission's 37th Annual Preservation Awards program. **The deadline to submit nominations is Friday, March 30, 2012.** *Early entries are always welcome!* We are still planning this year's event, so please check back for more information about judging and the awards ceremony. To learn more about the awards program and to download the nomination form, please visit the Preservation Awards page of our website: www.nashville.gov/mhc.

IN THE NEWS

Thanks to Eleanor Willis, Executive Director of the **Friends of Warner Parks**, for sharing this news about restoration of the Indian Springs Picnic Shelters: Gail Kerr recently wrote a column in the *Tennessean* spotlighting the historic picnic shelters in the Warner Parks that were designed and constructed by members of the Works Progress Administration back in the 30's. She reported that many were falling down and almost all of them were in need of restoration. Friends of Warner Parks appealed to the public. The City of Belle Meade, several private foundations as well as many friends of John Hardcastle and Anita Burch responded with generous gifts. With the help of the Historical Commission and the Wieck Construction Company, we began restoration on the four shelters located in Indian Springs. We are so excited over this project and plan a systematic restoration of all 20 of these unique shelters.

To learn more about Warner Parks and the Friends of Warner Parks, visit www.nashville.gov/parks/nature/wpnc/index.asp and www.friendsofwarnerparks.com/

CONFERENCES, EXHIBITS AND EVENTS

New! African-American History Month at the Archives

February 14 and 18
Metropolitan Archives
3801 Green Hills Village Drive
615-862-5880

The Metropolitan Archives and Friends of the Metro Archives will celebrate African-American History Month with two exciting programs in February.

On **Tuesday, February 14, from 2:30 to 3:20 p.m.**, William Ratcliff, a USCT re-enactor for almost 25 years, will talk about the role of the **United States Colored Troops during the Civil War**, especially their efforts during the second day of the Battle of Nashville, December 16, 1864. *Free and open to the public.*

On **Saturday, February 18, from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.**, Gail Randolph Harlan will present an **African-American Genealogy Workshop**. She will discuss how she traced her African-American Randolph family back to Virginia and how her techniques can benefit other researchers. Debie Cox, archivist, will speak about the holdings of original wills, marriage bonds and chancery court loose papers, helpful in African-American research, that are only available at Metro Archives. **Limited Seating.** Call 862-5880 to reserve a place.

Mark your calendar for these future topics:

March 6: Victoria Traver, "Three Terraces" (her home on Hillsboro Pike)

April 3: Jim Hoobler, "Occupied Nashville," featuring slides from his book *Cities Under The Gun: Images of Occupied Nashville and Chattanooga*

New! African-American History Month at The Hermitage

The Hermitage, Home of President Andrew Jackson, will host several FREE African-American History events throughout February. Program topics include African-American musical traditions, genealogy of families who were enslaved, and the Underground Railroad in Nashville. For more information, visit www.thehermitage.com.

Save the Date! 2012 Tennessee Civil War Sesquicentennial Signature Event: "Invasions by Rail and River: The Battle of Shiloh"

April 4-5, 2012

Pickwick Landing State Park

Pickwick Dam, Tennessee

Join the Tennessee Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission in April at Pickwick Landing State Park as presenters discuss the battles, events and stories of the Civil War. The symposium will be jointly sponsored by the Tennessee Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission, Tennessee Civil War National Heritage Area and Tennessee Historical Society.

April 6-7, 2012

Shiloh National Military Park

Commemorate the 150th Anniversary of The Battle of Shiloh, one of the Civil War's most bloody battles, with Special Extended Tours and the Grand Illumination of Shiloh National Battlefield. For details, visit www.nps.gov/shil/.

All events are free and open to the public, but seating is limited. For hotel information, event agenda, or to register, visit www.tncivilwar150.com.

Save the Date!

Nashville to Host Statewide Preservation Conference and Old House Fair

The Tennessee Preservation Trust conference to be held May 31-June 2 in Nashville this year will have a new component, an Old House Fair. The Old House Fair will be from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Eastwood Christian Church at 1601 Eastland Avenue. The Fair will be a great resource for learning about local craftsmen and materials to help restore old buildings. The Fair will also include three sessions led by Bob Yapp. Yapp is probably best known for his syndicated radio show called *The House Doctor* and his national weekly PBS program, *About Your House with Bob Yapp*.

SAVE THE DATE:
MAY 31-JUNE 2, 2012

NASHVILLE, TN

TENNESSEE PRESERVATION TRUST
STATEWIDE PRESERVATION CONFERENCE
‘SMART PRESERVATION: LIVABLE & SUSTAINABLE’

Join the Tennessee Preservation Trust and its statewide partners for Commission Assistance & Mentoring Program (CAMP), educational sessions, hands-on workshops, tours, networking, and a tradeshow featuring Bob Yapp, former host of the PBS series 'About Your House'

For more information, contact: Cathleen Collett 615.963.1255 or tnprestr@yahoo.com.
www.TennesseePreservationTrust.org
Facebook.com/TNPresTR

The Metropolitan Historical Commission publishes this monthly newsletter to keep you informed on events and happenings at the MHC. If you have questions, comments, or news to pass along, please email scarlett.miles@nashville.gov, with E-NEWS in the subject line.

Metropolitan Historical Commission
Sunnyside in Sevier Park • 3000 Granny White Pike • Nashville, Tennessee 37204 • Phone: 615.862.7970
Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County • Karl F. Dean, Mayor