

King's Landing

Murfreesboro, North Carolina

June 2013

Guardian of the Wheeler House Garden



Gene Hardin was born in the Philippines and has travelled the world in his career with the Navy (stationed in Puerto Rico during the Cuban Missile Crisis) — but he always returns to Murfreesboro. Family, particularly his grandmother, were a constant pull, to be sure, but there is a small plot of land that is also an attraction.

Over fifteen years ago, Gene was approached by Bob Hill — a man, he says, “with the widest grin you’ve ever seen.” Hill asked him if he would take over the care of the garden at the Wheeler House. Although not a MHA member at the time, Gene agreed, and he cultivated the spot until he moved to Newport News for a number of years.

He returned to Murfreesboro for good about a year ago and has since become a Life Member of the MHA. And, as a volunteer, he is again the gardener at the Wheeler House. The plot is carefully designed, trim and tidy, but there is the unmistakable, (cont. on p. 4)



Special Interests: I am interested in helping as: Docent Guest Speaker Misc. Volunteer Committee Member Membership Historic Home Tour

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Please contact me regarding a gift to the endowment
 My employer is a matching gift company Enclosed is a gift to MHA's endowment

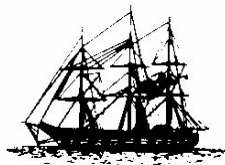
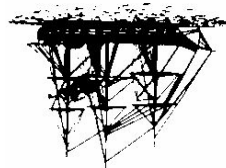
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Benefits: Newsletter—Merchant Discounts—Special Events—Guest Speakers

Please complete and return with membership dues to: MHA, PO Box 3, Murfreesboro, NC 27855

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

The Murfreesboro Historical Association, Inc.
 Post Office Box 3
 Murfreesboro, North Carolina 27855



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 Post Office Box 3
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President's Message



Dear Members,

This issue of the King's Landing focuses on our members. As many of you reside outside of Murfreesboro, you cannot be here to assist us physically. We appreciate your willingness to be a part of the Association and its activities in other ways.

According to our Action Plan, this year we are focusing on replacing our Historic Signs along Main Street and on the museums/buildings: repairing the walk bridge between Hertford Academy and the Murfree-Smith Law Office; accessing and repairing the John Wheeler House, the Rea Museum, the Agriculture/Transportation Building, and the Southall Cemetery. Other agenda items include handicap access and sidewalks which will be addressed in the future.

All of these objectives are impossible to accomplish without you — our volunteers. It takes manpower and money to make changes. Without these changes, our buildings will fall into disrepair, costing even more to correct later.

A very specific need we have now is housekeeping. We need "Clean Teams" to select a site and clean it from top to bottom. As stewards of these museums, and the artifacts in them, we must work together to give the Historic District a fresh and clean appearance. Call Jesse Woods, 252-398-5922, and tell him you would like to sign up for a Clean Team.

Please continue to support our fundraising efforts to meet the specific needs for these projects. Your support keeps us moving forward to meet our goals for the year and beyond.

Sincerely,

2013 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Jul 31-Aug 3 Watermelon Fest—Bingo & Hot Fudge Booth
- August 2 Jefcoat Chicken Dinner
- October 2 and 16 Student Tours
- October 12 Civil War "Living History"
- October 25 Ghost Tour
- November 12 Soup & Sandwich Day
- December 5 & 6 Candlelight Christmas "Christmas in Wonderland"

Call for Articles and Photos

Members are encouraged to submit history-related articles or photographs for publication in the King's Landing. Submit your house histories, personal accounts of family members, significant photographs, etc., to the newsletter. Let future generations benefit from you!

Publication Schedule

The King's Landing is published three times a year, in January, June and September. Please submit articles, news briefs, photographs, etc., in the month prior to publishing.

MHA Executive Committee

- President: Carol Lassiter
- Vice-President: Randy Roberts
- Secretary: SuEllen Askew
- Treasurer: John Sullin (Pro Tem)
- Tour Director: Victoria Newcombe
- Jefcoat Director: Colon Ballance
- Property Managers: Linwood Taylor, Lamar Van Brackle (voting member)
- Office Manager: Jesse A. Woods, III

KING'S LANDING NEWSLETTER

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Victoria Newcombe, Editor

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12th Annual Roanoke-Chowan Pork-Fest A Fun Time at the Jefcoat Museum May 18, 2013



"Pork Alley"



Classic Cars



Live Tunes



Lots to See



Secret Recipe



Anticipation



Great 'Cue



Jefcoat Director, Colon Ballance, with Pork Fest Winners



MHA Life Member Gene Hardin says he has designed a garden at Wheeler House that he believes the original residents would find familiar.



Guardian (Continued from Page 1)

relaxed air of a family garden. Broccoli and onions are planted side by side with rows of kale and in between are pockets of flowers and herbs. When the broccoli is finished, he plans on planting some squash in their place. "I picked crops that grow low to the ground," says Gene, "so that meant no corn." The low profile enhances the beauty of the sparkling white picket fence that surrounds the plot. It is a self-contained but cheerful area that complements the imposing brick edifice of the house.

There's bachelor buttons, lamb's ears, and other quaintly named plants. Reflecting an earlier era but not chosen for a historical purpose. He is confident the Wheelers would know the crops he has planted.



The garden requires constant maintenance — there is continual weeding and re-seeding when one crop reaches the end of its life cycle, and the ground must be prepared for the next. The neat rows are covered in inches of gravel that Gene installed for easy walking, and he laid the bricks that form a foyer of sorts inside the entrance gate. The garden is a pleasant spot to visit and you will be likely to run into Gene if you stop by one day. He is obviously a dedicated guardian of this little plot of earth.



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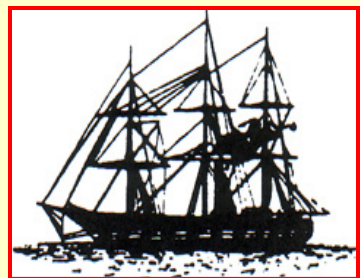
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MHA Gifted with Barnes Family Heirlooms

The Murfreesboro Historical Association has been inspired by — and blessed by — the dedication of families who grew up here and whose families were some of the founders of Murfreesboro. Over the years, their generous gifts and loans of art, furnishings and historical information have been the foundation for the development of the restoration program for Historic Murfreesboro.

Our most recent gifts were presented by members of the Barnes family whose ancestors were Judge D. A. Barnes and his wife, Bettie, a daughter of Uriah Vaughan of the Roberts-Vaughan House. A reception was held April 2, 2013, to celebrate the donation and loan of these items upon the sale of the Lawrence-Barnes House (circa 1818) on Main Street. Guests, including members of the Barnes Family, enjoyed refreshments and viewed the items placed on special exhibit at the Association's Executive Offices. The Lawrence-Barnes House has been purchased by a young couple, Tim and Teresa Flanagan, who have plans to open a Bed and Breakfast on the site.



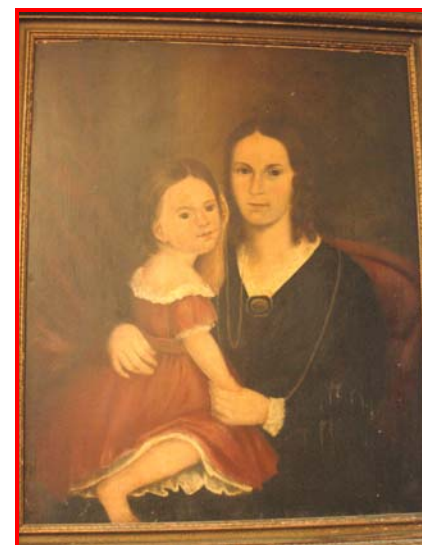
Barnes Family High Chair



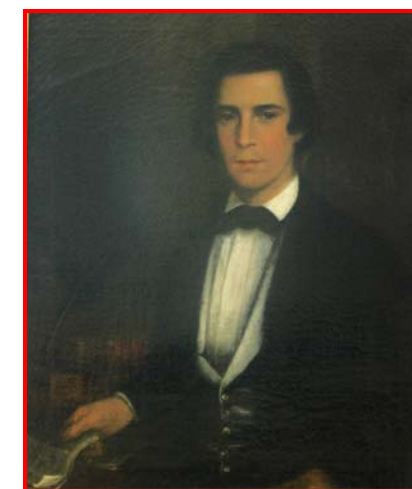
Julie Barnes and Gertrude Revelle sign acquisition documents



Barnes Family Tricycle



Louisa Barnes is pictured with her daughter Eliza Ann Barnes (Moore). This portrait was generously donated by Mr. Carl Witt.



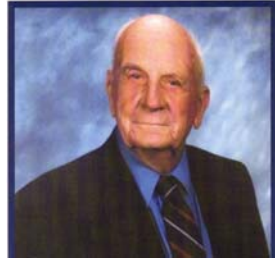
Judge D.A. Barnes on loan



Alice Vaughan Stancell

In Memoriam

Brady C. Jefcoat



June 12, 1916 — April 11, 2013

Brady Cromer Jefcoat became a good friend of Murfreesboro and MHA starting in 1990 when he gave the Commencement Speech at then Chowan College. From that initial meeting, he went on to give his wonderful collection of Americana to the Association to be placed in the "Old Murfreesboro High School Building." His gift became the over 14,000 item collection that is now recognized as the largest Museum Display in North Carolina.

Mr. Jefcoat's generosity was also bestowed on the Western Boulevard Presbyterian Church, the Oxford, NC Children's Home, the Wake County Parks and Recreation Association, and countless other gifts to those in need of help.

In addition to his benevolence, Mr. Jefcoat was a devout Christian, a good friend to hundreds and had the ability to do more with one hand than most folks can do with both hands. He spent almost half of his 96 years collecting things that he admired. His life's collection will keep his memory alive to all that have toured the Brady C. Jefcoat Museum of Americana in Murfreesboro. *(By Brinson Paul — former Director of the Jefcoat Museum, MHA Life Member, and biographer of Brady C. Jefcoat)*



Funding for Historic Sign Project Still Needed

The Town of Murfreesboro has graciously agreed to assist MHA with the cost of replacing the historic signs along Main Street and on our museums/buildings. We would also like to thank W. H. Jones, Jr., for his support. In addition, plans are under way to replace the familiar billboard on Hwy 258 North. These are important projects for the Association and the Town and additional contributions are needed and welcome. Please contact the MHA Office at 252-398-5922 if you would like to make a donation.



Confederate Memorial Day Ceremony in Weldon

At this time of year, our thoughts turn to the observance of Memorial Day. The national day observed by the entire United States actually was established to emulate the earlier Confederate Memorial Day, which was started in 1866 by the Ladies Memorial Association of Columbus, Georgia. Officially, North Carolina lists Confederate Memorial Day as May 10. Across the south, Confederate Memorial Day is still a state holiday to honor Confederate veterans. The national Memorial Day, which has evolved to honor all men and women who died while serving in all wars, is also observed.

In the town of Weldon, NC, there is a quiet and serene cemetery where Confederate veterans are buried. This plot is under the care of the United Daughters of the Confederacy, (UDC) assisted by the Sons of Confederate Veterans (SCV). The soldiers who lie there are those who died at a nearby hospital where wounded or sick soldiers were sent. The individual graves are not marked; instead there is an impressive monument listing the names and their military units.



On Sunday, May 19, 2013, a Confederate Memorial Day ceremony was held at this Weldon Cemetery. It was the 100 year anniversary of the first Memorial Day ceremony held at this cemetery in 1913. Officiating was Ms. Martha Denton, President of the Roanoke Rapids Chapter of the UDC. A Living History re-enactment was provided by men and ladies of the First NC Volunteers/11th NC Troops, led by Captain Bill Potts and Sergeant Tom Oliver. Murfreesboro members of this unit included Joe Minton, Steve Fowler, Milton Vaughan, and Booker Daniel.

Various officers of the UDC and SCV made addresses to the gathered crowd. Also speaking were descendants of the veterans. As part of the service, the remains of an unknown soldier from this cemetery were respectfully and reverently re-interred. The remains were enclosed in a small wooden casket, with Private Joe Minton acting as honor guard and pallbearer. Prayers and benedictions were offered by the chaplains of the UDC and SCV. Music was provided in the form of a talented violinist. A musket volley salute was fired by the 11th NC Troops. And the sad but serene sounds of "Taps" were performed by a bugler from a local Junior ROTC unit.

"All is well, safely rest, God is nigh."

Lest we forget.

(Story and photos courtesy of Dennis Pipkin)

