

FRIENDS OF THE DR. WALTER REED HOUSE NEWSLETTER

July 2019



Since the Murfreesboro Historical Association, Inc. began its extensive restoration of the Dr. Walter Reed House in 2016, there have been monthly progress reports at board meetings as well as periodic updates printed in the Association's newsletter. All of these have been brief, and we thought that more information about the restoration was vital, not only to present where we are in the process, but also, perhaps more importantly, to explain why this is an historically significant endeavor.

The 2019 Hail Storm

Those of you who live in Murfreesboro need no introduction to the hail storm our town experienced in June. We had hail stones as big as baseballs in some areas. It seems nearly every home in Murfreesboro received damage; and some houses had substantial damage. The *Dr. Walter Reed House* was very, very fortunate. We had four broken windows and a few more panes were cracked, but we are extremely thankful that there was not anything more substantial.

The Dr. Walter Reed House Restoration Update

Although we hope to have a better photograph soon, I wanted to show everyone the house with its shutters. Just in time for the *Candlelight Christmas Tour*, we were able to rehang the shutters on the front of the house. It was possible to repair most of the original shutters, but several could not be repaired and replicas were made.

One of the most enjoyable aspects of restoring the *Dr. Walter Reed House* has been returning the interior to its original color palette and furnishing the house. These are the things that make history come alive for many individuals who are touring a house museum. In the last newsletter I mentioned that we had received several large donations of antique furnishings this past year, and I wanted to include a photograph of another one of these items, a wonderful cradle from the Myrick-Yeates-Vaughan House, which stood on Main Street in Murfreesboro.

Since the last newsletter the *Dr. Walter Reed House* received two Gingerbread Mantel Clocks from Catherine and Johnny Jenkins. Both of these clocks have local NC provenance. The clock pictured in this newsletter was originally owned by the Lassiter family.

We have also recently received some very beautiful items from the estate of Margaret Futrell Deloatch, given by her daughter Charlotte Walker in Margaret's honor. Margaret was a Friend of the *Dr. Walter Reed House* and was for many years a vital part of the Murfreesboro Historical Association, Inc.

I am including just one of these beautiful pieces in this newsletter, a rare Victorian Burmese glass "Fairy Lamp." Burmese glass was first made in 1885 by the Mount Washington Glass Company in Massachusetts. However, the glass found favor with Queen Victoria, who reportedly thought it looked like a "Burmese sunset," and soon the glass became enormously popular in England as well.

In the next newsletter I hope to include more of the recent gifts to the *Dr. Walter Reed House Collection*. We still need a few pieces: a **19th century doll** for "Annie's Bedroom" on the second floor. Annie was Walter Reed's youngest sister, who was about seven or eight years old when she came to Murfreesboro to live with her parents, Rev. Lemuel Sutton Reed and Mary Catherine Byrd Reed, Walter's stepmother.

We are also looking for a piece of furniture suitable for the entrance hall, and period Victorian (or earlier) prints, paintings, and needlework. Please let us know if you have something you would like to donate, and, if you haven't already done so, please come and take a tour of the house! Our telephone number is (252) 396-7373. My e-mail is suedeets@roadrunner.com.

*A Few of Our Recent Gifts
Thank you !*



A beautiful American child's rocking cradle made of cherry wood, circa 1825-1840. From the Myrick-Yeats-Vaughan House, Murfreesboro, NC. Given by John and Rachel Parker.



Burmese glass and ceramic Fairy Lamp, circa 1888, by Samuel Clarke and Taylor, Tunnicliffe, & Co., England. Donated by Charlotte Walker in memory of her mother Margaret Futrell Deloatch.



Gingerbread Mantel Clock by the William L. Gilbert Clock Co., one of the foremost American clockmakers in the 19th century. Given by Catherine and Johnny Jenkins. It was originally owned by the Lassiter family of Potecasi, NC.



Late Victorian Bohemian Glass rose vase, circa 1885. Unmarked, but believed to have been produced by the Moser Glass Works. Donated by Donna Evans.



A small collection of Victorian items, including a gold Victorian Mourning brooch made of human hair, circa 1850-1860; a pair of wire- rimmed spectacles in original leather case, circa 1850-1880; and sewing items, circa 1880, originally owned by the Bryant family of Southampton Co., VA. Donated by the late DiAnne Bryant.



Two EAPG oil lamps, circa 1880. Donated by Trudy Gibson and Suzanne Deets. These lamps came from Trudy's extensive collection of museum quality antique oil lamps.