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Landmark Report (Vol. 24, no. 3)

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THE LANDMARK ASSOCIATION INVITES YOU TO HEAR

Noted Irish Journalist and Author
Billy Kennedy discuss

Women of the Frontier in America
With Particular Emphasis on the
Scots-Irish Influence

Sunday, April 10, 2005
2:30 p.m.
Pioneer Log House
behind the Kentucky Building
Free Admission
Plenty of Parking Available

Kennedy’s new book Women of the Frontier will be available for purchase and the author will sign copies. Kennedy hails from Belfast and you will enjoy his energy and knowledge as well as his Irish lilt.
Architectural Details

- The Landmark Association has several important items on its wish list: 1) a volunteer coordinator, who can help get our membership involved in some of our activities; 2) a grant facilitator, who can help the organization write and administer grants; 3) a computer that is old enough to use two years old, so we can convert to more modern technology in our office. Since we’re asking, we don’t want to make members too. Ask your friends, neighbors, and colleagues to become a part of the preservation movement in Bowling Green.

- The Historic Preservation Board is offering another Cemetery Documentation Workshop on Friday, April 16th, from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. The workshop will take place at the Heritage Missionary Baptist Church, near Woodburn. This workshop provides training for volunteers who want to participate in the Warren County Cemetery Documentation Project. The project is a terrific opportunity for families, church groups, or social organizations, as well as interested individuals, to learn a little local history and enjoy our beautiful countryside. In the workshop, participants will learn how to read hand-drawn maps and photographs of cemeteries, and how to complete accurate transcription and state forms. Trained volunteers will be able to document a cemetery in which they have always been interested or have one assigned to them. Volunteers will be trained some of the necessary tools including a helpful manual that they can keep, but will also need to provide a few simple items to complete this project. For more information about workshops or to schedule an additional workshop at your church, contact Robin Zeigler at 842-1953 or robin.zeigler@bgky.org. Directions and a “what to bring” list will be provided upon registration. To register contact Community Education at 270-842-4281 or 842-805-554 (FAX) or bgwccommmed.org. Cost of the workshop is only $5.

- It is not too late to become a sponsor of Insight Communication and the Historic Preservation Board’s television show, “Warren County Preserves.” The program is about preservation issues and the local history and aims at Insight’s cable channel 5, each year from May through November. One sponsorship spot is $250 or a three-minute spot is $1,000 per episode and includes four thirty-second commercials and the company’s name as part of the title. For more information, contact Robin Zeigler at 842-1953 or robin.zeigler@bgky.org

- The 2005 International Heritage Development Conference, to be held in Nashville, June 4-8, 2005, will include a session in Bowling Green. Heritage Development is a growing industry across the United States that incorporates public/private partnerships that focus attention, resources, and strategies on enhancing national, state, regional, and local heritage. The conference will focus on interactive conference sessions and workshops with heritage development professionals, local historic resource stakeholders, economic development professionals, chambers of commerce, public agencies, non-profit organizations, and elected officials. For more information visit http://ihdc2005.org

- July is Civil War month in Bowling Green. Look for the new brochure, “Civil War Discovery Trail in Bowling Green, Kentucky,” partially funded by Landmark Association. Lost River Cave will sponsor the month’s kick-off event. Also, visit Lost River Cave from July 18-24 for Civil War “living history” tours. If you are a Civil War reenactor interested in taking part, contact Christian at 393-0377.
Architectural Details (cont'd)

The Kentucky Heritage Council is registering war-related memorials throughout the state. Listing will provide some protection for these sites, whether they are sculpture, plaques, bridges, etc. If you know of a memorial that you would like to nominate, please contact Robin Zeigler at 842-1953 or robin.zeigler@bgky.org for an application.

- Twelve interested individuals trooped with us south for the Nashville Ramble in March. We are planning a summer ramble to Franklin and a fall ramble to New Albany, Indiana, and Louisville. This is a great way to see how other communities are handling preservation issues and to see some great projects. In Nashville, Mancell Ezell led us on an architectural tour of the Frist Center for the Visual Arts. This fantastic exhibition facility is really a massive adaptive re-use project, as the building formerly served as Nashville's downtown post office. Afterwards we had an enlightening trek through the Belmont Mansion.

- Our annual meeting will take place at the Presbyterian Church on Thursday, May 19. Landmark member, Thomas N. Moody, will give us a historical tour of the building and will give us a brief organ concert in the sanctuary. The Presbyterians inhabit the oldest church in the city, dating from the 1830s. In 2002, Mr. Moody donated an interesting 1854 broadside to the Kentucky Library which announced that a cholera epidemic was ravaging Bowling Green. As a postscript the printer noted: "We are requested to state that the Ladies of the Presbyterian Church have deferred their Fair until next fall." Cholera got the best of the Presbyterian ladies that summer, but the Landmark Association will be welcomed with open arms in May. Our pre-dinner reception will be held at Eclectic Style on Fountain Square and hosted by Mark Hood and Cape Monisteri.

Spring Calendar

APRIL 10
2:30
Lecture by Billy Kennedy, Irish Journalist

APRIL 17
2:30
St. Joseph Cemetery Tour

APRIL 23
10:00
College Hill Tour

MAY 7
10:00
Wildflower tour at Cedar Sink, Mammoth Cave led by Ellen Micheletti; lunch afterwards at Pig for those who don't need to get back to the horses.

MAY 15
2:30
Fountain Square Tour

MAY 19
6:00
Annual Meeting

For information about any of our events, please contact the Landmark office at 782-0037. Leave a message, and we will get back to you.

Photo Leads to Interesting Information by Jonathan Jeffrey

Doing reference work may sometimes be an avocation, but it is always interesting. This past summer I received the following e-mail from Lori Newton with this photo attached: "Looking for information on the father and mother of George Washington Newton. Can you help me? I just received a photo of George's father and mother and I am trying to put names and any other information with it." Because I was not familiar with any Newtons that were builders in Bowling Green's past, I e-mailed Lori back and asked if she knew for sure if the family had lived in Kentucky. Could it have been Virginia or Ohio? She quickly replied that it was indeed Kentucky. She said the back of the photo noted that "he was involved in building and design of some of the buildings in Bowling Green." This certainly piqued my interest. She further explained that George Washington Newton eventually moved to Beaver Dam and established a successful drugstore and that he had attended college in Bowling Green. Her chief goal was to find the name of George Washington Newton's parents. I wanted to know their names and what buildings he had designed. I was never able to answer the latter question, but I did find out something about this ante bellum master carpenter or architect.

Looking at the photograph I assumed it was one that was later touched up with paint—watercolors or sometimes called washes—and ink, and I judged that it probably was taken in the 1860s or early 1870s. These larger photos or cabinet cards were quite popular in that time period. Next, I went to the 1850 United States census for Warren County. The index indicated several Newtons, and I found a George Newton living in a large Bowling Green household. The parents' names were Hiram and Caroline Newton, and they held a number of Massachusetts acres. Hiram was 58 years old and the value of his real estate was $6,000 and the value of his personal property was $1,000. His profession is listed as carpenter. Before the field of architecture developed professional standards, carpenters filled the role of architects. Many carpenters possessed consummate design skills and were many times referred to as master builders. The other Newtons in the household and their ages were: James (23) who was also a carpenter, Fannie (19), John (17) who is listed as a farmer, Hiram (12), Mary (10), and George (3/12 or 3 months old). It turns out that George was Lori's ancestor. The Newtons had two non-family members living in their household Elizabeth Gilmore (13) and James Young (22) who is also listed as a carpenter. This one little entry provides quite a bit of information. Hiram Newton was not only a carpenter, but he employed two other carpenters (and possibly others) in his business. He was also a Yankee survivor and apparently thriving in a border state.

In a biography of George Washington Newton from Perrin's History of Kentucky, we find out a few other pieces of information about the family. It indicates that George was the son of Hiram and Caroline Kite Newton and that he was the twelfth of sixteen children. This sent up a red flag. The oldest female in the Newton household in 1860 was named Caroline. It is not unusual for the census taker to have misspelled names, but I also noticed that she was only 31 and the next oldest child was James at 23; it didn't add up. It appeared that Caroline was probably the oldest daughter, or the census taker could possibly have also written down her age wrong or she could have provided false information. I could see how the census taker might get Caroline out of Colline. However it didn't appear that a 31 year old could already have 12 children, although it would not be completely impossible.

The biography further related that both parents died of the flux in 1865 within one week of each other. George was sent to live with an aunt, Martha Smith, of Hardin County. He lived with her until 1869 when she died. At that point he moved to Bowling Green and lived with his brothers as he attended college. Apparently his health was not good and was sent to the country to work on a farm. In 1880 he moved to Crawfordsville and established a pharmacy and married a local girl, Souri Tilford, the daughter of W.G. Tilford. The biography also states that Calline Kite Newton was born in 1810 in Warren County. This cleared up the issue about Caroline, she appeared to be Hiram's unmarried daughter in 1860. Colline would have been 50. Why wasn't Colline listed as part of the households? Some things we can't explain.

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Pretty Church Wedding At High Noon Today

(Editor's note: It's always fun to marry a photograph to a letter, personal journal entry, or a newspaper article. This photo of the wedding of Arline Perkins and Samuel Rawlins was donated to the Kentucky Library by Ruth Hines Temple. The wedding took place on May 10, 1928 at the Cumberland Presbyterian Church. Below is the newspaper report of the nuptial exchage.)

Amid the lovely setting of ferns and autumn leaves enhanced by the soft glow of candle light, the wedding of Miss Arline McLean and Samuel Perry Rawlins was solemnized at twelve o'clock noon today at the Cumberland Presbyterian Church.

The Rev. Thomas A. DeVore said the ceremony using the impressive Episcopal ring service.

The church was beautifully set with decorations of autumn leaves and ferns. The altar was banked with ferns and leaves interspersed with cathedral candles in brass candle holders. The pews were marked with yellow ponnpons and bows of tulle.

Preceding the ceremony Lawrence Duncan played the violin "Melody of Love." Miss Margaret DeVore sang "Because." Mr. Duncan played "To Spring," and Mrs. A. L. Rawlins sings "Love You Truly." Miss Edith Rawlins, sister of the bride-groom played the piano. Lohgrin's wedding march was played as the bridal party entered the church. During the ceremony, Miss Rawlins and Mr. Rawlins played "To A Wild Rose" by MacDowell. Mendelssohn's wedding march was played as a recessional.

The ushers, Herbert Moltenberry, Earl Venable, Maury Cowles and Ernie Bloodworth entered first. The bridesmaids followed, entering singly, and forming a semi-circle at the altar. The maid wore attractive taffeta and lace frocks fashioned after a French model: Miss Margaret DeVore in honeydew; Miss Ada Rawlins, sister of the groom, in sunburst; Miss Ruth Hines in tangerine; Miss Katharina McGinnis in autumn brown. They wore brown tulle hats and brown satin slippers and carried arm bouquets of yellow chrysanthemums and ponnpons tied with wide green metallic ribbon.

Miss Alice Bryan Braswell of Brattleboro, North Carolina, schoolmate of the bride, was maid of honor. She wore a beautiful imported model of fuschia crepe Elizabeth with a violet picture hat fashioned with folds of taffeta and trimmed with a single flower. She carried an arm bouquet of Russell roses and Parma violets tied with purple tulle. Following her were the little flower girls, Virginia Earl Venable and Nell Johnson, in ruffled peach-colored taffeta dresses. Their flowers were French bouquets of roses, budlavender ponnpons and sweetlysm.

The bride entered on the arm of R.C. Blodgett, her step-father, by whom she was given in marriage. She was beautiful in her wedding gown of white crepe satin designed with a bodice and long sleeves and circular skirt. The gown was beaded with rhinestone baskets which were filled with white satin roses. Her tulle veil was attached to an orange blossom coronet and was caught with sprays of the blossoms. She carried a shower bouquet of bride's roses and lilies of the valley. The bride was met at the altar by the groom and B.E. Lindsey of Lake City, Fla., who served as best man.

The ceremony was followed by a reception at the home of the bride's parents, 1244 Park Street.

The house decoration was Russell roses and ferns. The center piece for the bridal table was a beautifully decorated wedding cake surrounded by white topers and crystal candlesticks.

Seated at the bridal table were the members of the bridal party.

Mrs. R.C. Blodgett, mother of the bride, wore a gown of henna crepe romaline.

Mrs. E.J. Kells, grandmother of the bride, wore black satin.

Mrs. H.E. Rawlins, mother of the groom wore an attractive black satin trimmed with grey fur trimnings.

Mr. and Mrs. Rawlins left immediately on a motor trip to Nashville, Chattanooga, and Birmingham and will be home in Harrisburg, Illinios after Nov. 10.

For her traveling costume, the bride wore a brown satin frock with a coat to match and a close fitting brown hat.

Mrs. Rawlins is the only daughter of Mrs. R.C. Blodgett and is a very talented young lady. She was educated in the city schools, Teachers' College and Guston Hal, Washington, D.C.

Mr. Rawlins is a graduate of the Bowling Green Business University and is a prominent public accountant with offices in Harrisburg, Illinois.

Out of town guests for the wedding included: Mr. and Mrs. H.E. Rawlins, Harrihsburg, Ill., Misses Edith and Ada Rawlins, Harrihsburg, Ill., Miss Alice Bryan Braswell, Brattleboro, N.C. and B.E. Lindsey, Lake City, Fla., and Eugene Benedict, Nashville, Tenn.

History & Inspection of Warren County Poor Farm, 1938

In an interview with Esquire Virgil Colwell, a former resident of the county (and 90 years of age) he states that to the best of his memory when the original county was formed, 1797, a plot of ground consisting of some 165 acres, located on the north side of Barren River, near Bowling Green, was set aside for the purpose of taking care of the poor and needy of the county.

Contributions for its upkeep were made by the various farmers and planters of the county in the form of donations, such as sides of meat, one or more bushels of corn, wheat, meal, potatoes, etc. This property was retained by the county for the purpose mentioned subject, of course, to various changes in the improvements thereon, until 1872 when it was used as part payment on the present County Farm which is located some twelve miles from Bowling Green near the town of Woodburn, Kentucky.

When originally purchased the present county farm consisted of 236 1/2 acres but sales and purchases since that time have reduced the acreage to some 276 acres. The land is very fertile and is tilled by the inmates of the home under the supervision of the Head Keeper and his assistant. The grounds immediately surrounding the buildings are well kept and the lawn is supplied with flowerbeds and shrubs. The improvements on the farm were inspected by the writer in December, 1938 and consist of a large two-story, brick residence occupied by the Head Keeper and his family—Mr. C.A. Spaulding; a four room, frame cottage which is the residence of the Assistant Keeper; Mr. George Woolbright and his family; Mr. Woolbright and a few inmates in the capacity of farm foreman, while his wife has charge of the kitchen for the inmates.

The plant itself, consists of two rambling bunk-houses, containing sixteen rooms and four baths. Two of these rooms are equipped for hospital purposes, one room for mole and one for female patients. An adequate dispensary is maintained in connection with these two rooms. The inspection disclosed that all of the sleeping and living rooms are neat and comfortable and the inmates apparently well treated. A laundary is maintained at the Home and the linens appeared to be clean and sanitary. The dining room and kitchen were neat and sufficiently supplied with dishes and cooking utensils. A large concrete basement under the bunks-house is fully stocked with provisions.

The entire plant is lighted with electricity and the rooms, with the exception of four, are steam heated by an American Radiator furnace, with automatic stoker which maintains a uniform heat of 70. The four rooms not so heated are supplied with gas stoves. Hot and cold running water is available to the inmates through the facilities of a Deeming electric engine and Deeming water pump which are located in a separate building some fifty yards from the main buildings. Some fire protection is afforded by a fifty barrel water tank. One other separate building located in the rear of the living quarters is known as the "Dead House" where the bodies of the departed await the undertaker.

The inmates at the time of the inspection numbered 84, 25 of whom twenty-four are white males, nine white females and two colored males. The hospital rooms while very inadequate, are kept clean and orderly and the attending physician.

The superintendent of the farm—Magistrate John VanMeter—lives at his home near Rockfield. He is employed by the year and receives $150.00 annually for his services. The Head Keeper's salary is $60.00 per month and he is employed by the month. The Assistant Keeper receives a salary of $35.00 per month, as does his wife, supervisor of the kitchen. The Head Keeper and Assistant Keeper and their families, of course, are furnished with free board and lodging. The Superintendent and Head Keeper are elected by the Fiscal Court, and the Assistant Keeper is employed by the Head Keeper. All salaries, however, are paid by the county. (*)

The above information was secured through the splendid cooperation of County Judge, G. Duncan Milliken, Jr., Esquire Leslie White, County Court Clerk, George Potter, Circuit Clerk, C.E. Lawson, former Magistrate Alex Smith, Head Keeper, C.A. Spaulding and by means of a personal inspection of the plant and grounds by the writer. The poor farm is no longer in existence.
Perhaps you could pass this newsletter along to someone you think would be interested in supporting Landmark’s efforts in historic preservation advocacy.

I (we) want to support the Historic Preservation efforts in Bowling Green and Warren County.

Name ____________________________________________________________

Mailing Address __________________________________________________

City __________________________________ State __________ Zip ____________

Telephone ___________________________ E-mail ________________________

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I have enclosed $ __________________________ to support the Irene Moss Sumpter Preservation Endowment Fund.

Checks should be payable to: Landmark Association

P.O. Box 1812

Bowling Green, KY 42102-1812