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The Landmark Association invites you to its

**Annual Picnic**

**The Ennis Farmstead**
*Home of Dr. Jeff Adams and Dr. Tammy Willis*

956 Glen Lily Road  
Sunday, September 11, 2011  
$5.00 per person  
Home Tour 4:00 p.m.  
Dinner 4:30  
Program Begins at 5:20

Program includes a brief 10th anniversary moment of remembrance of 9/11  
&  
An appearance by Johnny Green of the Orphan Brigade as presented by Ethan Sullivan Smith, a Chautauqua presenter from the Kentucky Humanities Council. This is a costumed, first-person account of Johnny Green who visited Bowling Green during his Civil War service and is presented as part of the Civil War Sesquicentennial (see page 2 for additional information on Green).

Pleasant Hill Christian Church was recently razed. It was located in the Greenhill area, not far from Cemetery Road. A pavilion will be built on the location and a commemorative granite marker will be erected. The cemetery, behind the structure, remains unchanged. A former Warren County resident wrote about this building in a letter to the Daily News in 1997: “I was told this old church was no longer used for Sunday services. My father and mother, Albert Howell and Allie Donoho Howell, lie in its graveyard. I feel like this church where the pews are bare and no music is heard; and it’s falling to pieces, board and stone. It has had its day, but that day is past and it stands there to crumble to dust.”

**Save the Dates:**

Oct. 29  
Ramble to the Gardner House and Munfordville Civil War battlefield  
Nov. 15  
Deadline for Landmark grant completion  
Dec. 3  
Christmas Tour of Homes
Johnny Green to Again Visit Bowling Green

Johnny Green of the Orphan Brigade will once again visit Bowling Green for the Landmark Association picnic on Sunday, September 11. Green was 19 when the Civil War broke out, and was one of the only soldiers in the Orphan Brigade alive when it ended. Orphan Brigade soldiers were unable to return to their home state of Kentucky until the war was over—lest they be tried for treason—because they chose to fight for the Confederacy. Though he had learned to love the Union, as his mother was from Boston, Green felt passionately that states should have the right to govern themselves. And when President Abraham Lincoln called for men and arms, Green left his job in Florence, Alabama, to travel to Bowling Green, to join the Confederacy on the day before his 20th birthday. Green’s story, as detailed in a journal he wrote for his daughters years later, provides extraordinary accounts of courage and bravery, and brings the story of the Orphan Brigade to life. Green kept a diary of his trials, which was published in 1956 as Johnny Green of the Orphan Brigade. Here is a brief excerpt:

“We came back from Russellville to Bowling Green by R.R., the rain pouring down all day. Reaching Bowling Green at dusk we marched through mud & rain to a point on the right hand side of the turn pike looking north & called the place Camp Price for Genl Sterling Price who had just done such gallant fighting in Mo. [Missouri]

I was drenched to the skin, tired, muddy & sick, every bone in my body aching, but I said to my messmates I would bring straw to spread in our tents to sleep on. (We were fortunate enough at this time to have tents.) I took my blanket, filled it with all the straw I could pick into it, brought it [to] our tent & being almost dead on my feet threw myself down on it & tossed until morning.

When day came my messmates found I had broken out with measles & Col Hunt sent me to the hospital. He rode down to the hospital in Bowling Green & got the matron to give me the best accommodation & attention; my bed was a bunk filled with straw with one blanket to lie on & one to cover with. I knew nothing for a few days & when my fever began to abate nothing for a few days & when my fever began to abate I took my blanket, filled it with all the straw I could pick into it, brought it [to] our tent & being almost dead on my feet threw myself down on it & tossed until morning.

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We reached the home of Alma Lee Francis on Edgewood in Bowling Green, Kentucky. The women who gathered there at 7:30 on the evening of February 2011 had already decided to form a literary club; they had also agreed to meet once a month from September through May and to limit their group to fifteen members. The secretary recorded, “Present were the following girls: Ann Francis, Alma Lee Francis, Elise Gaines, Mary Hendrick, Marilyn Hill, Margie Nahm, Virginia Earl Pearson, and Sarah Pope. Also accepting membership but unable to be present were Louise Jolly and Betty Johnson, and Virginia Neel.”

What they had not yet determined was an appropriate name for their new group. Two months later, several names were suggested: Heritage, Delineator, Contemporary, and L’Ecrivain Ferme, with the Delineator Club being the unanimous choice.

The origin of this name was The Delineator, a monthly magazine published by the Butterick Company from 1873 until 1937. The magazine featured not only the latest fashions and sewing tips but fiction and articles on homemaking and self-improvement. The members in the new club believed that just as the magazine editors delineated (made a form & precise outline) their material in order to create a successful publication, they too would carefully outline and prepare interesting programs for each other in the years to come.

Several traditions were launched during the first years of the club. Virginia Earl Pearson made a motion, which was seconded and carried, that roll call be answered by any good book that the member had read. Members also planned an annual summer picnic with their husbands; the Hill Cottage on McFarland Lane off Barren River Road was a popular destination for the picnic for several years. Members also voted unanimously to serve a dessert course before each program. Secretaries in the early minutes noted that "a "delicious dessert" was served, but later minutes specify the ladies' baking skills by listing lemon pie, HERSHEY bar pie, strawberry cake, and Helen Donnelly's "own inimitable Charlotte Russe which we love having when she entertains our club." Georgette Hagerman delighted the members with "her delicious rum cake" one year and again the next year with a "delicious chocolate mandarin orange kissle" dessert. The exact recipe served by Corvella Biggers in September 1987 was not mentioned, but the secretary noted that a "sinfully rich dessert" was served by the hostess, which was eaten by members with "horrible satisfaction." A unique feature of the Delineator Club was its circulating library. Minutes from May 1, 1952 recorded, "It was decided that every member would purchase a book in the fall to be used at a circulating club library." In addition to the usual duties, officers of president and secretary-treasurer, the club created the position of librarian, whose duties were "to keep a record of each member's book, to take the books to each meeting for exchange, and to return books to their owners at the end of the club year." Examples titles donated from the 1950s include these...
journey. Guest speakers also contributed interesting programs. For example, novelist Mitchell, a watercolor artist from Smiths Grove, visited, sharing her collection of paintings of covered bridges and speaking of the encouragement she received from her husband, Evelyn Thurman, former Western Kentucky University educator and librarian, to come speak about Laura Ingalls Wilder. Michelle Meng delighted the club with her presentation on antique lace, passing around samples of cut work, drawn work, Irish crochet, Brussels's lace, Rosepoint, and Bobbin lace. Marci Durban also visited and told her background in theater and how she came to found The Public Theatre of Kentucky.

As the years marched on, the club celebrated anniversaries and inevitably altered some traditions. With the passage of time, however, membership dwindled. Several years ago, members made an effort to keep the club vibrant. Although there was some initial reluctance, Sara ("Sookie") Bennett insisted that the club invite some younger women to join. As one of the charter members of the Delineator Club, she could not fathom the thought of the club fading out of existence. "We can't let it die on the vine," she said. So the club organized special, engraved invitations and sent them to women they thought would be interested in joining. The plan worked; all who received an invitation joined.

The new generation includes Lucindia Anderson, daughter of charter member Alma Lee Franks. Lucindia has fond memories of her childhood home full of books and her mother's intense passion for the club. The club ordered a watercolor artist from Smiths Grove, visited, sharing her "poetry, biography, history, poetry, biography, and art. Days did not seem so dull nor work so monotonous when they kept their brains busy with high thoughts." (70B)

It is now more than 100 years since those sentiments were written, more than 60 years since the Delineator Club was founded. The world and women's lives have radically changed. Yet no matter what the year, there is something universal about the bonding of women together as they expand their minds and deepen their friendships. Today, the "girls" of the Delineator Club still meet regularly, offering a testimony to that timeless spirit.

![Members of the Delineator Club are gathered around member Elaine Walk- er (centered, on er) upon her appointment as Kentucky Secretary of State.](image)

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**“I hope you can some day have a bath room.”**

**Bowling Green’s Sewer System**

By Lynn Niedermeier

Assembling for their meeting on the afternoon of April 18, 1901, the gentlemen of Bowling Green’s XV Club had resolved to examine this question in their usual thorough manner. Mrs. Cather, the venerable president of the club, was present together with six guests, including a former member and superintendent of schools and two physicians. The hazardous subject of their discussion was just a few feet beneath them, percolating through the fissures, crevices and caverns of the vast cut-off limestone formations underlying the city. Depending upon the weather and the topography, it flowed, flooded, pooled, stagnated or clogged. In each case, it threatened everyone with disease and death—and it stank. It was Bowling Green’s sewage problem, and it was steadily decomposing into a crisis.

Discharge waste through a pipe from its own works, club members agreed, was the most urgent public health challenge of the day—a "mine," one of them suggested, "that would sooner or later blow us up from a sanitary point of view." They understood, nevertheless, that the temptation to civic inaction was profound. For generations, Bowling Green had boasted a marvelous sewage disposal that was disturbingly simple. Eons of precipitation had forced rainwater through the topsoil, where it ended up in the nearest bedrock to create a subterranean system of streams and hundreds of sinkholes—in short, any number of receptacles to collect and carry off the waste of a small city and its livestock industries. Bowling Green’s sewage system was generally sloping, beginning in the south at an elevation of 650 feet on what is now the campus of Western Kentucky University, dropping to 116 feet near the front gate of the Warren County Library.

Opening a passage to the city’s underground system of covers and watercourses became the job of the “sink finder.” Such tasks were daunting and hazardous. In 1896, for example, a sink finder for the city’s sanitary department died while working in the town’s sewage system:

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What Is the National Register?

By Dwight Young

What exactly is the National Register? One official government website employs an impressively shallow of nouns to describe it as a compilation of "districts, sites, buildings, structures, ..." but the Register is an object that is significant in American history, architecture, archaeology, engineering, and culture. Another describes the Register more succinctly as the official list of the Nation's historic places worthy of preservation. Both definitions are accurate, but the shorter one provides a better sense of what this amazing list is all about. The diverse and lengthy and ever-expanding roster of treasures on the National Register—more than 86,000 listings, comprising more than 1.7 million individual resources, from steel mills to shotgun houses, railroad stations to roadside attractions, bridges to battlefield, mansion to canal, prisons to lighthouses, archaeological sites to sailing ships—is made up of things we should care about. Having them around, living with them, and learning from them helps us remember who we are, where we came from, how we got to now. They're "worthy of preservation" because they tell the story of us as a people and a nation.

The process by which a property gets listed begins with an exercise in straight-up democracy: Anyone can nominate anything to the National Register. All it takes is basic research and a few required forms. The nomination forms are reviewed and submitted to the Register by the state historic preservation officer (SHPO) in the state where the property is located. As part of this review, the SHPO informs the property owner, who may not have been involved in the process up to this point, that his or her property is being considered for listing. At that time a private owner (or Majority of private owners if several are involved) can object. Every time a form is processed and the property is deemed eligible for listing, if a private owner objects, the property cannot be added to the Register. But if the nomination goes forward, the SHPO staff (and later, the National Register staff in Washington, D.C.) makes sure that the property meets key criteria for listing: significance and integrity. Significance simply means that the property possesses some distinguishing quality—a pedagogy, if you will, whether historical or architectural or both—that makes it worthy of a spot on the Register. Is it associated with an important person, event, or movement in history? Does it mark a notable advancement in technology? Is it a premier example of a particular style? Is it the work of a recognized master? Does it have the potential to yield important archaeological information about our past?

Two important points to bear in mind: First, scoring a "yes" to any one of these questions may be enough to make a property eligible for the National Register; in other words, the property doesn't have to be both historically noteworthy and architecturally significant to be listed. Second, the Register is intended to recognize properties of local as well as national significance; many listed properties are deemed worthy of national recognition because they played important roles in the history of their communities, not in the history of the nation as a whole.

The issue of integrity involved determining whether the features that contribute to the property's significance—its location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, and the like—remain largely intact. A house may be notable because it was designed by Frank Lloyd Wright, for example, but has Wright's original design been radically altered through years of remodeling? Similarly, a building may be significant because its history-making event took place there, but has it been moved from the site where the event occurred? If the answer to either question is "yes," the property's integrity could be compromised, potentially making it ineligible for Register listing.

Generally speaking, properties must be at least 50 years old to be added to the National Register. (Properties that have achieved significance in the last 50 years may qualify if they are of exceptional importance.) It's worth noting that 50 years is a mere speck on the national timeline. The National Register, the civil rights era, the space race...properties from that not-so-long-ago period are by no means ancient, but many of them are now eligible for the National Register. What's more, this 50-year threshold is constantly moving, so every year a new bunch of properties comes of age, becoming eligible for—often getting listed on—the Register. This means, obviously, that the National Register will never be "done." The nation's official list of things worth preserving is, and always will be, a work in progress.

Preservation professionals rely on the National Register as an awesomely useful planning tool—so useful, in fact, that it's hard to imagine how we got along before it was established in 1966. But what about the actual owners of properties included on the Register? What do they get out of it? Some pretty nice benefits, that's what.

First, listing on the Register is generally the threshold for eligibility for whatever preservation funding may be available from federal and state governments. Admittedly, there aren't huge pots of money out there awaiting distribution, but the preservation funding sources that do exist (and it's safe to assume, those that might be established in the future) typically

Warren County Properties on the National Register of Historic Places

[Editor's note: There are always properties in the process of application, but this is the list compiled by the Bowling Green Warren County Historic Preservation Board. Some of those listed are historic districts which include multiple properties. A property can be listed individually and as contributing to a historic district. For further information about these sites see the Preservation Board's website at www.warrencountyhistoricalpreservation.com/resources.php or the Kentucky Library Register of Historic Places website www.library.state.ky.us/Districts or the SHPO official site www.library.state.ky.us/Arch/SHPO or the Kentucky Library Register of Historic Places website www.library.state.ky.us/Districts]

Adams-Kentucky Streets District
Allen House
Allen House
Blakley House
Bumett House
Campbell F. Smith House
Cove Spring Farm
Cecil Memorial Church
Cherry Hall-WKU
College Hill District
College Street Bridge
Confederate Monument-Fairview Cemetery
Cook House
Curd-Gass House
Davison House
Downtown Commercial District
Drakes Creek Baptist Church
Dunklau Site
Emits House
Everhardt House
Ewing House
Fairview Methodist Church
Ford House
Fort C. F. Smith
Fort Lyle—WKU
Fort Webb
Gordon Wilson Hall—WKU
Groom House
Grider, John House
Grider, Tobias House
Halt House
Hays House
Health Building—WKU
Heating Plant—WKU
Hines House (Razed)
Hobson House
Home Economics Building—WKU (Razed)
Horie, Shive Camp
Houchers Center (Kater House)
Industrial Arts Building—WKU
Inwood
Jaggers House
Jesse Kirby House
Kelley House
Kentucky Building—WKU
L&N Bridge
L&N Railroad Station
Last River Cave
Madison Farm
Magnolia Street District
Merritt Hardin House
Meredith House
Modern Auto District
Moore House
Mr. Otis Cuberlund
Presbyterian Church
Neal House
Newton Kemp House
Nine Hearths
Oakland-Freepoint District
Old Log Church
Pioneer Log Cabin—WKU
Pine House
President's Home (Alumni Center)—WKU
Rauscher House (Razed)
Richardsville Road Bridge
Robb House
Sedley House
Shane Rag District
Shobe House
Skiles House
Sloss House
Smiths Grove Baptist Church
Smiths Grove District
Smiths Grove Presbyterian Church
Snell Hall—WKU (Razed)
St. James Apartments
St. Joseph's District
St. Joseph's Catholic Church
Stadium (Amphi-theater)—WKU
State Street Baptist Church
Starr House
Stedman-Jones House
Upper East Main District
Var Miller Hall—WKU
Walnut Lawn
Wardlow House
Where County Courthouse
West Hall—WKU
William F. Perry Monument—Fairview Cemetery
Wight House
Young Ferry's House

Ironwood, built in 1857 by Joseph Rogers Underwood and Elizabeth Cox Underwood, was the second Warren County home placed on the National Register. Courtesy of Kentucky Library & Museum, WKU award their grants and loans only to properties on the Register. Similarly, owners of some types of Register-listed properties are eligible for generous tax credits that can help offset the costs.
backed-up sewers. A few years after settling in Bowling Green in 1876, becoming a member of the Board of Health, Dr. Joseph N. McCormack had conducted a sanitary survey of the city and urged the construction of a sewer system consistent with the installation of new gas lines. Having fallen victim himself to a severe case of typhoid in 1872, McCormack understood the menace to public health posed by disease carrying waste and the need for a solution that was still common in town. The legislature's utter indifference to promoting sanitary measures, however, had become clear when the common council in 1883, even at the request of the Board of Health, took no action. In 1887, the sewer system was established. 

In 1911, Kentucky's new vital statistics law took effect. A higher number of deaths were recorded, and the Ohio River Medical Society issued a call for structural improvements. McCormack agreed, perhaps thinking that dynamite would be the solution, as he had previously suggested for the removal of sewerage. Fortunately, at the state Board of Health meeting on December 21, the common council authorized the construction of $93,000 worth of underground sewerage, a project that was eventually completed in 1914.

In 1910, the common council appointed five members to form a sanitary commission to investigate the situation. The commission reported that the city's sanitary facilities were inadequate and that the city was in imminent danger to the health of the residents. The report recommended the construction of a sewer system to prevent the spread of diseases such as typhoid fever.

In 1921, the common council authorized the construction of a new sewer system, and the project was completed in 1922. The cost of the project was $125,000, and the city was able to eliminate the problem of sewage backup. The system was designed to collect and dispose of sewage from all parts of the city, and it was supposed to be a permanent solution to the problem of sewage backup.

In 1930, the city of Bowling Green was one of the first in the country to adopt a sewerage ordinance, which required all residents to connect their homes to the city sewer system. The ordinance also required the installation of a sewage disposal facility at each residence, and it established a system of penalties for violations of the ordinance.

In conclusion, the city of Bowling Green had to address the problem of sewage backup for over 50 years, and it took several years of effort and a significant amount of money to solve the problem permanently. The city of Bowling Green was able to eliminate the problem of sewage backup and to improve the health conditions of its residents by constructing a new sewer system and adopting a sewerage ordinance. This was accomplished through the efforts of the city council, the sanitary commission, and the residents who were willing to pay for the necessary improvements.
churches, schools, the armory and the courthouse itself. General economic conditions, moreover, made any additional assessments intolerable as distributions of public funds. While the extra cost to property owners in the district had been estimated at between $125 and $142, the citizen’s group estimated that more than half of Bowling Green’s 4,700 Depression-struck taxpayers had already slid into delinquency.

If sewer foes believed that a petition attacking the necessity and economics of the project put them on firm ground, they soon found the same arguments wielded against them. Judge Sims examined an avalanche of written testimony, including a statement signed by 11 physicians pronouncing the city’s present sewage system “wholly insufficient and a menace to public health.” From Louisville, where the State Board of Health offices had moved in 1918, Dr. Arthur M. McCormick delivered an affidavit so complete in its abhorrence of current conditions that opponents attempted to have it excluded from the proceedings, along with Mayoral Rodae’s affidavit mourning the numerous but futile proposals for sewer systems dating as far back as 1873. When, on August 3, Judge Sims dismissed all objections and upheld the city’s right to construct the sewer, the citizen’s group promptly filed an appeal. Although the Court of Appeals was then in recess, all parties hoped that a special panel of two judges would agree to decide the matter. By this time the urgency had acquired a new dimension, for if the appeals court upheld Judge Sims, the local newspaper observed, construction could probably commence immediately and supply hundreds of jobs for Bowling Green’s growing ranks of unemployed men.

No quick decision from the special panel, unfortunately, was forthcoming, the judges having agreed that the full court ought to rule on the legality of the ordinance. In the meantime, however, an alternative method of financing the project was attracting interest. On February 2, 1932, the same day Bowling Green passed its sewer ordinance, the Reconstruction Finance Corporation (RFC) had commenced operations in Washington. Originally chartered by Congress to fund Depression-starved public relief, the RFC had received additional authority on July 21 to make loans for self-liquidating public works projects. Not only could such a loan finance a sewer system for the entire city and be repaid with monthly user charges of less than one dollar, it would generate jobs for as many as 690 men. On September 23, about 140 of those men gathered at the courthouse and passed a resolution urging the city to pursue the RFC loan. Desperation was evident in their expressed desire that, whatever the number available, jobs be parcelled out to 690 men on a pro rata basis, giving everyone a day or two per week of wages instead of public relief.

Negotiations for the federal loan, however, had to wait a few more weeks for another court decision. As part of its request for sewer funding from the RFC, the city of Hopkinsville had been required to obtain a ruling on the validity of the state law that governed borrowing by municipalities. Bowling Green’s common council watched closely, and when the Court of Appeals upheld the Hopkinsville application, quickly moved forward with its own. On November 1, 1932, local newspaper headlines trumpeted the RFC’s approval of a $630,000 loan to Bowling Green for a sanitary sewer system. With so many unemployed eager to enlist, the work began early in 1933 and was completed far in advance of the estimated four-year time frame. After more than a half-century, through the persistence of public health advocates and a timely dose of government stimulus, real bathrooms finally came to Bowling Green. ▲

(National Register, continued from page 7)

of rehabilitation. Since it was established in 1976, the federal government’s historic rehabilitation tax credit program has helped spark the rehabilitation of thousands of historic structures, from modest main street storefronts to high-rise office towers. Moreover, the success of the federal program has led several states to develop their own preservation tax incentives that can be combined with the federal credits.

National Register designation also provides a measure of protection through Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. Section 106 requires that federal agencies provide the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation and the SHPO an opportunity to comment prior to funding, licensing, or approving a project that will affect a property listed on or eligible for the Register. Although the advisory council doesn’t have the power to halt a project permanently, it can, and does—work with the sponsoring agency, preservationists, and other interested parties to seek ways to avoid or mitigate adverse impacts.

Finally, there’s this: Inclusion on the National Register is an honor. The owner of a Register-listed house can take pride in saying, “My house is important; the federal government says so.” That’s a feel-good benefit that means a lot to many people. Now for the other side of the coin. What restrictions are imposed on the owner of a National Register-listed property? None under federal law. That’s right, none. Nada. Zip. Zilch. Fundamentally, this is the most widely misunderstood fact about the National Register. Listing in itself is no restrictions on an owner’s right to do anything with his or her property within the limits of local laws and regulations. Here’s another way to say it: Restrictions on an owner’s right to manage his or her property in any manner are imposed by state or local law, not by the National Register. (If an owner plans to use federal funds or permits for a project that would destroy a historic property, that’s a different story.) So inclusion on the Register does not ensure preservation in perpetuity. A responsible owner is key to any property’s survival. ▲

Annual Meeting Scrapbook

Photos by Jack LeSueur

Thanks to Tim & Linda Leagh for allowing us to use their building at 600 State Street for the annual meeting reception. The building was originally constructed in the late 1860’s as a service station. Larry Hender’s vintage automobile added true ambiance to the area.

Because the meeting was held at Marsh’s Restaurant, the former home of Marsh Moore, Annual Meeting guests enjoyed a visit from Maie Moore, who was busy cleaning out some storage areas.

This June Morningstar Award of Merit, which is given for substantial maintenance of a municipally-owned building, was presented to Dan & Irene Nuth for work on the Green Building (Next Star Building) at 918 State Street.

Jonathan Jeffrey accepted a Landmark Building Award on behalf of the Landmark Association for their combined efforts on the Pump House at 700 East Main Avenue.

William A. Willsan received a Landmark General House Award for his charming preservation work on 941 Park Street.

Landmark presented the Jean Thomas Historic Home Award to Ed Flagg for his work on the Carrie Taylor House at 617 east Main Avenue.

Shelby Turner received a Landmark General House Award for the work performed at 613 East Main Avenue.

Members of the New Salem Baptist Church received Landmark’s Cultural Landscape Award for their work on the New Salem Cemetery located at 1259 Peters-Browning Road.

August 2011
Landmark Report 10

August 2011
Landmark Report 11
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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Checks should be payable to: Landmark Association
P.O. Box 1812
Bowling Green, KY 42102-1812

“Future with a past”