

Middle Tennessee State University visit's Elkton and the Matt Gardner Homestead Museum

In the photo to the right is Kelsey Fields, a graduate student in Public History at MTSU. She is at the Matt Gardner Homestead Museum beside a painted quilt pattern copied from a pattern from a quilt that Henrietta Gardner had made. Kelsey is from Arkansas and is in MTSU's Dr. Van West's American Architecture class which is working on projects in the Prospect and Elkton



Photos Courtesy of Caneta Hankins

While Center Staff Caneta Hankins and Michael Gavin were looking over work accomplished at the Matt Gardner Homestead, Hankins spied 3 remnants of

cotton sacks in the barn. Gary Gardner holds the child's sack which is in reasonably good shape. Hankins, herself among the last generation of southerner's to pick cotton by hand (in nearby Lawrence County) advised that cotton sacks are very difficult for museums to find. They were used until worn out and then discarded. The Matt Gardner Homestead is fortunate to have these three sacks and a future project might be their conservation so they can be used to interpret that important crop and those who picked cotton for some many years until the advent of mechanical cotton pickers in the mid-1960s.



Gary Gardner with a Child's Cotton Sack
Photos Courtesy of Caneta Hankins

Officers

Carla J. Jones, President
Indianapolis, Indiana

Donielle R. Neal, Secretary
Indianapolis, Indiana

Jewel D. Bailey, Chairman
Indianapolis, Indiana

Board Members

Gary D. Gardner, Owner-Operator
Gardner's Lawn & Cleaning Services
Elkton, Tennessee

Malcomb Gardner, Consultant
360 Media
Austin, Texas

Rev. Stephen E. Gardner, CEO
Crown of Hope International
Phoenix, Arizona

Stanley R. Garrett, Pastor
Temple of Praise Baptist Church
Pulaski, Tennessee

Agustin Gonzales, Manager
Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.
Pulaski, Tennessee

Jesse W. Lowery, Sales/Marketing
Indianapolis, Indiana

Melinda Boutwell, Historical Interpreter
Belle Meade Plantation
Nashville, Tennessee

Rev. Elmorie Miller, Educator Retired,
Giles County Schools
Detroit, Michigan

Diana Steelman
Formerly with Giles Co. Tourism
Pulaski, Tennessee

Karen Russell, Historian
Elkton Historical Society
Elkton, Tennessee

Carolyn S. Thompson, President Elkton
Historical Society
Elkton, Tennessee

Roosevelt Whitfield, City Council &
Historian
City of Elkton



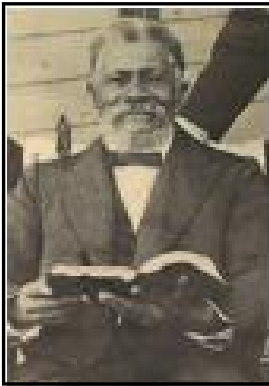
New Members:

Louis (McLin) Kitchen, Detroit, MI (Bronze Patron) and Robin Bankhead, Indianapolis, IN

Matt Gardner Homestead Museum
110 Dixontown Road
Elkton, TN 38455
www.mattgardnerhomestead.com
Your Address Line 4

For More Information Contact:
Carla Jones
317-547-9386
E-mail: carlajones@sbcglobal.net

MGHM News!



Matt Gardner Family Celebrates 30 Years of Family Reunions

On Thursday, June 24, through Sunday, June 27, the Gardner family will all come together in the historic city of Franklin, Tennessee, to celebrate the coming together as family for 30 years. The Embassy Suites will be the host hotel, and there will be plenty of family celebrating with food, fun, interesting and informative tours, events and activities. This year's theme for the family reunion is "It's all about the children." The family wants to make sure that the children know, understand, and retain their history, heritage, and culture. It is about the children knowing their ancestors and their struggles that have gotten all of them to where they are today. The weekend will start off on Friday with tours of historic Belle Meade and Carnton Plantations, where the kids will learn and experience slave life. On Saturday they will take a bus trip to Elkton, where they will revisit freedom and Reconstruction. They will visit the black cemetery once known as the African burial ground, Union Hill Baptist Church, previously a Rosenwald school (the first black public school in Elkton), and the Matt Gardner Homestead Museum. They will also drive through Elkton's African American community of Dixontown, and last they will visit St Elizabeth Primitive Baptist Church built in 1872 where they will have a sermon, prayer, song, and scripture directly as it was from the historic minutes book of the church October 31, 1931. On Saturday night the book *African Americans of Giles County* will debut for the family and Mr. David Currey will present the documentary on Elkton. Saturday night the family will reflect on the past, rejoice in the present, and look forward to their future.

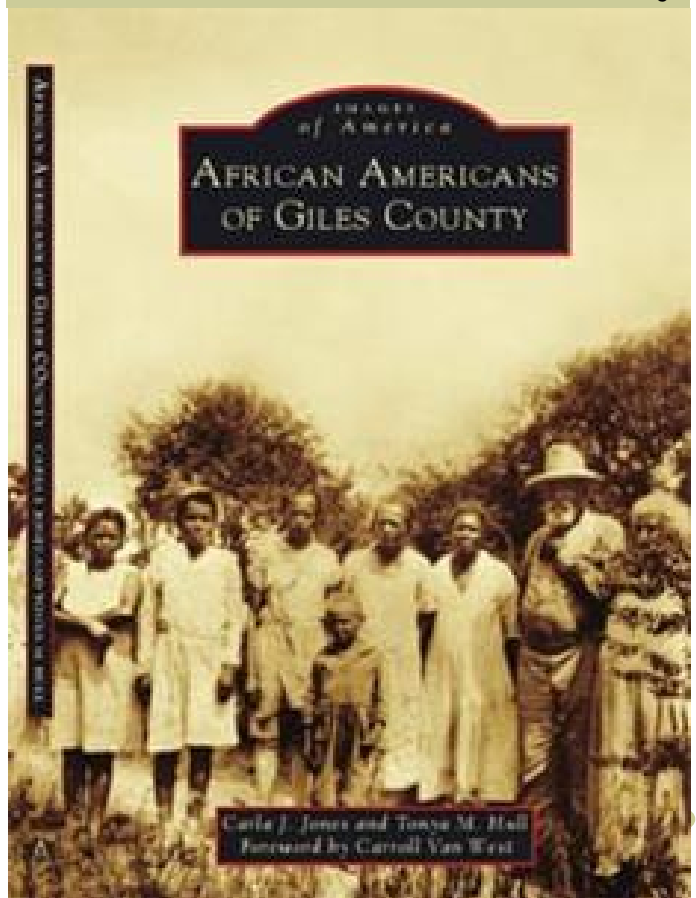
Coming In June 2010

A documentary DVD on the town of Elkton during the Reconstruction Era. The documentary will focus on Elkton's early settlers and history, Matt Gardner and other African Americans in Elkton during this transitional period. The documentary is being produced by David Currey of Encore Interpretive Design LLC, Nashville, TN ... www.encorecreative.net

Our Heartfelt CONDOLENCES

To the family of Silver Patron John Vasser, who passed away on March 16, 2010.

Released April 19, 2010 *African Americans of Giles County*



Authored by: Carla J. Jones, Tonya M. Hull, Foreword by Carroll Van West. Publisher: Arcadia Publishing

The making of *African Americans of Giles County* has multiple purposes. First, to highlight the early African American accomplishments in Giles County. Second, to enlighten all about Giles County's early African Americans' history and heritage. Last, the authors hope the book will show that Giles County history is Tennessee history and Tennessee history is the history of the South, and all of it is American history. Most importantly, we let the world know that we, the lineage of the African American ancestors of Giles, are proud of them for their successes and accomplishments!

Arcadia Publishing is the leading local history publisher in the United States, with a catalog of more than 6,000 titles in print and hundreds of new titles released every year. Arcadia is best known for its popular *Images of America* series, which chronicles the history of communities from Bangor, Maine, to Manhattan Beach, California. With more than two hundred vintage black-and-white photographs, each title celebrates a town or region, bringing to life the people, places, and events that define the community.