

Matt Gardner Homestead Museum

More restoration work will start up again soon!

Restoration work will start up again in this spring at the farmstead. Areas to be completed by summer include restoration - stabilization of the foundation of the back porch and breezeway and restoration - stabilization of the kitchen and dining room foundation. Check our web site later on this spring to see pictures of the restoration progress.



A side view of the Matt Gardner House showing the breezeway and detached kitchen. Inset shows breezeway detail and main house foundation.

Photo Courtesy Carla Jones

Restoration of the front porch and its foundation was one of several projects completed in 2008.



Before and after photos of the front porch and porch foundation restoration.

Photo Courtesy Carla

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Matt Gardner Homestead Museum

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To make a tax deductible donation...visit www.mattgardnerhomestead.com

MGHM News!



The Matt Gardner Homestead Museum has received a grant from **The Community Foundation of Middle Tennessee** in Nashville. The grant money will be used to restore and stabilize the foundation and flooring of the 1896 two-story Matt Gardner House. (Go to our website at www.mattgardnerhomestead.com for pictures and more information.) The Community Foundation of Middle

Tennessee has distributed more than \$1 million in grants to 202 nonprofit organizations as part of The Foundation's annual grant making process. "The Community Foundation of Middle Tennessee connects generosity with need by supporting our region's hard-working nonprofit organizations," said Ellen Lehman, president of The Community Foundation. For more information on the CFMT, call 615-321-4939 or visit www.cfmt.org.

The Matt Gardner Homestead Museum will also be receiving a matching grant award from the **Tennessee Civil War National Heritage Area**. The grant is being awarded to help with the design and development of an informational rack card to be used in the near future for multiple version media packets. To read more about the TCWNA visit: <http://histpres.mtsu.edu/tncivwar>.

Other funding includes a grant from the **Tennessee Wars Commission** also for the stabilization and restoration of the foundation of the farmhouse. www.state.tn.us/environment/hist/TnWarsCom.shtml. Our sincere thanks to these organizations for their continued support to our renovation process.



Fall 2008 — Local rock mason, Jimmy Shannon and a helper, work on the rock wall along the old iron bridge on Elk River. The historical society is working to get this iron bridge listed on the national register for its association with

the "Bee Line" highway and its architectural significance. The bridge sits just north of the Matt Gardner Homestead and listing it on the National Register will enhance the historic importance of properties in the Elkton area. *Photo courtesy Karen Russell*

We Always Welcome New Members Please Join Today!

Join online at www.mattgardnerhomestead.com
or Contact: Carla Jones at 1-317-547-9386



On Sunday, December 14, 2008 the Elkton Historical Society sponsored a **Christmas Tour** of Homes and Churches and a Service of Carols Concert. The Matt Gardner house was one of five homes on the tour. For safety reasons only the two rooms on the lower lever of the home were open to visitors. The home was decorated with a fresh cut cedar, candles, cinnamon and brilliant red Nandina berries. Relics from the Matt Gardner family also decorated the space in-

cluding a hand carved table and a woven horse harness. Visitors enjoyed old time spiritual music and homemade ginger snaps, molasses cookies, and wassail. The home looked and smelled of a Christmas past reminiscent of those during the life of Rev. Matt himself. Board members Diana Steelman and Gary Gardner along with historical consultant David Currey were tour guides for the day. Over the past years individuals in and around the community have been very encouraging and supportive of our fundraising efforts. Opening our doors during this Christmas tour afforded them an opportunity to see the homestead up close and for us to show our appreciation for their support. A big thank you to Diana, Gary, and David for their help in pulling this off and to tour event corporate sponsors, Home Depot of Pulaski and Wal-Mart of Pulaski. *Photo courtesy Diana Steelman*

Up coming Events:

April 17, 2009

On the farmstead will be a presentation ceremony for the unveiling of the MGHM quilt block for the **Southern Middle Tennessee Resource Conservation and Development Quilt Trail**. The trail, which is a driving route throughout counties in southern middle Tennessee, is designated by 8'X8' *painted* quilt block murals that are hung on barns, agri-tourism and other sites of historical and economic significance. Each route is carefully chosen for its potential to draw visitor traffic to the abundance of local businesses, artisan shops, historic sites, educational opportunities, and recreational activities this region has to offer. The MGHM painted quilt block will feature a quilt design of Matt's wife Henrietta and will be the first of many barns, houses and other historic buildings that will become sightseeing venues to introduce the public to the many virtues in southern middle Tennessee encouraging tourism growth and community pride. Our thanks to the Southern Middle TN RC&D and to Martin Methodist College art students Todd Camp and Jessie Bains who are painting the quilt block and to Associate Professor of Art Bernice Davidson for their interest, support, hard work, and dedication to this project. Please make your plans to attend and support this worthwhile project.