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MATT GARDNER
HOMESTEAD MUSEUM

Newsletter

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Matt Gardner Homestead Museum Gets Blanketed with Snow



Matt Gardner Museum House a couple of days after the big snowfall

On Saturday, January 8, the local weatherman's forecast was for "cold air and a potential for heavy snowfall". Everybody was excited and a bit anxious at the same time. The kids were sure they would not be going to school on Monday. We bought the grocery stores out of milk and bread, dusted off our kerosene heaters, and local road crews pre-treated the roads two days early in the expectation of 4 to 7 inches of snow to fall over the area on Sunday night and into Monday. But the weatherman was wrong. Oh, the cold air came in alright, but the snowfall was more than 4 to 7 inches. Up to 10 inches fell here in Elkton and even more in other areas around us. As most people know, a typical southern snow storm can usually be measured with your finger. That's not to say that we haven't had heavy snowfalls in the past. They are events that are just few and far between. Most Elkton winters are kind of boring with warm temps and sunshine nearly every day. But every few years we have a "doozy" of a snowfall and this was one and it was beautiful. This extraordinary snowfall was a bit of a welcome diversion from our usual winter doldrums and the pre-storm treatment of the roads got us out and about on the main highways in just a short while. When the sun came out on Tuesday, it didn't take long for even that much snow to go away. So, when August rolls around and you are fed up with the seemingly endless 100 degree weather, just take a look at this picture of Matt's house blanketed in the beautiful snow. It just might make you long for the winter again and the fun filled days playing in the snow.

Go to this link <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FLONMWTcJI4> for a time-lapsed video of our big snow event.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

In keeping with the spirit and tradition of Rev. Matt Gardner, we invite you to join us at the farmstead on

Saturday, July 15th
Sunday, July 16th

for a

Big Tent Arbor Revival

with preaching under the brush arbor.

Our speakers for the revival are:

Friday, July 15th, Pastor Mario Ford from St. Minor Primitive Baptist Church, Guntersville, Alabama,

Saturday, July 16th, Brother Alan Dixon of Williams Chapel, Byrdstown, Tennessee.

The revival will start each night at 5:45 pm with devotion and conclude at 8:00 pm.

Bring the whole family.

**Let's All Go
Back to the
Old Landmark.**

(Admission is free).

A Picture is Worth a Thousand Words



Researchers, tourists, readers and supporters of the MGHM will see this picture representing the museum throughout the coming year. It is a picture of the hand-made table and chair set in the house museum's dining room. The table and chair set was made by Matt in the 19th century and helps to set the stage when narrating the many stories told around the family table and passed down through many generations. The photograph was taken by Earl Campbell last year during the museum's grand opening. Earl R. Campbell, III, a native of Middle Tennessee, inherited his love for photography from his father, Dr. Earl R. Campbell, Jr., an amateur photographer and historian, and his mother Margaret Campbell, an art major. He pursued his interest in photography at the Watkins College of Art and Design in Nashville, Tennessee. He returned to the Pulaski area just two years ago and spent much of his time restoring a home in the Sam Davis Historic District and photographing and documenting the wealth of historic architecture and cemeteries in the area for a book he plans to publish in the future.

Restoration Update

Restoration work at the MGHM has slowed significantly due to the downturn of the economy. Some repair and restoration work will begin in June on the smoke house and horse barn. Our most needed restoration is our roof which leaks on occasion in spots and allows some moisture as well as insects into the house which affects our alarm system. Once the roof is restored we can start the process of adding permanent exhibits and additional historical artifacts, along with a few display cases for documents and smaller artifacts.

History of Matt Gardner and Homestead on Community Driving Tour

Thanks to the Humanities Tennessee project entitled *We the People of Tennessee — Stories of Land and Place*, and their partner the Elkton Historical Society, individuals can now tour the Elkton community as well as take a trip down memory lane. Through oral histories, the project seeks to discover the local narratives that give a place meaning. The Elkton Historical Society conducted 24 interviews with residents that focused on the development of southern Giles County including settlement, growth, and changes evidenced by commercial activity, transportation, and culture. These narratives were all transcribed and include some audio and are the basis of the Web-based walking and driving tours entitled “Story Mapper,” a driving tour through the communities of southern Giles County, Tennessee. The Matt Gardner and the homestead tour is narrated by Jewel Bailey, Great Granddaughter of Matt Gardner. Visit: www.storymapper.org/content/elkton to check out all the stops on the driving tour in the Elkton community.

Congratulations!!!

In February the museum announced in recognition of Black History Month it was sponsoring a 500-word essay contest. The essay was to be about the contributions Matt Gardner made to African American history in the Giles County community. Prizes were 1st Place \$50.00 U.S. Saving Bond, 2nd Place \$10.00 iTunes Gift Card and 3rd Place \$10.00 iTunes Gift Card. In addition all participants received a free admission pass to the museum’s 3rd Annual Cultural Folklife Festival, Saturday, September 17, 2011. Our first place winner was McKenzie Majors, second place went to Clayton McAlister and third place Anthony Smith, all students of Elkton Elementary. Congratulations to all our winners!





The current owners of the Matt Gardner Homestead and Farm are Gary D. Gardner, Jewel Bailey, and Carla Jones. On 52 acres of the original farm founded by their great grandfather, Gary, his brother Stanley, and nephews, Stanley Jr. and Kalab, raise hay and cows. Three generations live on the farm today. Gary and his wife Tilda completed the Tennessee Master Gardner volunteer certification program.



Giles County Farm Join Ranks of State's Century Farms Program

Murfreesboro, TN— The **Matt Gardner Homestead**, located in Giles County, has been designated as a Tennessee Century Farm, reports Caneta S. Hankins, director of the Century Farms Program at the Center for Historic Preservation at Middle Tennessee State University. The Century Farms Program recognizes the contributions of Tennessee residents who have owned and kept family land in continuous production for at least 100 years. The Matt Gardner Homestead is one of seven certified Century Farms in Tennessee that was established by an African American. The Century Farms program is administered by the MTSU Center for Historic Preservation in cooperation with the TN Department of Agriculture.

For more information on Tennessee Century Farms, see: www.tncenturyfarms.org



WE SHALL NOT BE MOVED

The Matt Gardner Homestead Museum in partnership with Martin Methodist College will host “**We Shall Not Be Moved**” a traveling exhibition developed by the Tennessee State Museum. The exhibit provides an intimate look at the role Tennessee students played in shaping the modern Civil Rights Movement. The exhibit will be on display daily at Martin Methodist College in the Gault Fine Arts Center, Friday, October 2, 2011 through December 5, 2011. We invite everyone to come out and view this enlightening historical journey through this landmark event.