

MT OLIVE CEMETERY HISTORICAL PRESERVATION SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Mar. 2023

Vol 2 Issue 1

Society News

PRESIDENT'S PEN

Written by Nick Nicholson, President

Hello everyone!!! This Newsletter is our first quarterly report of 2023, and it will be full of fantastic news that has happened since our last Newsletter and planned events this year.

As I often describe the Society's posture/existence in the Clarksville/Montgomery Community, it is about our footprint and our imprint. Our footprint relates to how we are growing in membership/partnerships and forging ahead with our mission of telling the story of those interred at Mt Olive Cemetery. Our imprint has to do with legacy, and by that I mean the impact that we individually and collectively are making in and on the lives of those who we connect to the legacy of the many souls interred at Mt Olive Cemetery. The struggle of the souls at Mt Olive was real and they lived through some very defining moments in U.S. history, namely the Civil War, the emancipation of slavery, the Reconstruction Period, and WWII. They were Slaves, Freed men and women, Citizens, and Veterans, who built a life here in the Clarksville Montgomery County Community, and in doing so, helped to build the beginnings of Clarksville, TN. We hope that those receiving this Newsletter are inspired to know more about this historic place, the stories of those buried there, and our ongoing efforts to preserve and maintain the Cemetery. Ultimately, we hope that you are intrigued enough to come to Clarksville, TN if an out of townner and actually tour the Cemetery. Anyone or groups desiring a guided tour of the Cemetery can make a request via our website.



WHAT'S IN THIS NEWSLETTER

- President's Pen
- Remembrance of the Month
- Preservation and Restoration Update
- Education and Engagement Update
- University/APSU Engagement Update

The cemetery is open to visitors seven days a week. We ask that you respect the services of the Seventh-Day Adventist Church on Saturdays as they allow their parking lot to be used by visitors of the Cemetery.

We have a number of events that will be occurring over the next few months, and I direct your attention to the various sections of this Newsletter for dates and times. We love receiving your positive responses to our Newsletter, so keep them coming, along with any constructive criticism that you think will help us message/brand our cause better.

In closing, we extend our heartfelt wishes to our partners, families and friends for great things in 2023.

As always, I thank our committed few in the Society who do some unbelievable work to get things accomplished.

My apologies for the lateness of this addition. We endeavor to publish the Newsletter in the month following each quarter. Thanks for your patience.

Thank you all!!!

Nick



Remembrance of the Month

Written by Phyllis Smith, Historian

Charity and Eddie Headspeth

Charity Headspeth was born Charity Medley to Warisk Medley and Elvira Vass probably in 1872 in Christian County, Kentucky. Her origins are somewhat confusing since she seems to get younger with every census. Also her mother is variously listed as Viney Murray (1900 census), Henderson Medley (1920 census), Monie Medley (her death certificate), and Elvira Vass (Charity's death certificate). In June 1886, Charity Medley married Joseph Headspeth in Stewart County, Tennessee.

The next record of the family is the 1900 Montgomery County, Tennessee census. Joe, aged 56, was working as a furnace laborer and was renting 417 Lee Street which is near where Austin Peay State University is located today. Charity, aged 35, was working as a laundress. They were listed with two children Lulu, age 14, who was working as a nurse. A nurse in 1900 was a child care worker not a health care professional. Eddie, age 3, who was born in July 1896. Charity's mother was listed as living with them.

Joe Headspeth died sometime before 1910 as did their daughter Lulu. There is no record of either of their burial places. The 1910 census listed the family renting 422 Lee Street. Charity, aged 38, was working as a Laundress. Charity's mother is not living with them. Eddie, age 12, was attending school. The family had a new addition. Jennie, age 8, was born in 1902 and was attending school in 1910.

The family moved to 513 Kellogg Street (now named 8th Street) between 1910 and 1920. In 1920, Charity, aged 48, was working as a cook for a private family. Eddie, aged 22, was also working as a cook for a private family. Jennie, age 18, was working as a laundress. Charity's mother, aged 87, moved back in with the family at this point.

On July 21, 1925, Charity's mother died of a Cerebral Hemorrhage also known as a stroke. She was buried in Mt Olive Cemetery the next day by Nace Dixon's Undertaking Firm.

By 1930, Charity had three grandchildren. All of them were Jennie's children, and in the 1930 census they are all listed with the Headspeth surname. Charity, aged 53, and Eddie, aged 30, were both working as laborers in a tobacco factory. Jennie, aged 28, was working as a laundress. The children were Bennie Joe, aged 10, Elgie M., aged 5, and Charity M., aged 3 months. No record of marriage has currently been found for Jennie. Clues to the fathers of the children are found in the 1940 census.



At this time, Charity, aged 76, is now a pensioner. Eddie, aged 43, also has no occupation listed. The census indicates she was crippled. Jennie, aged 39, was working as a cook for a private family. Bennie Joe was still listed with the Headspeth surname, but Elgia, aged 15, and Charity M., aged 10, are listed with the surname of Chilton. A new granddaughter, Bertie Will, aged 10 months, is listed with a surname of Milam. The family is well-to-do enough to have a live in cook named Lou Ella Ellis. They also have a lodger named Ben Stone.

On July 14, 1942, Eddie Headspeth died of Pulmonary Tuberculosis. She was buried in Mt Olive Cemetery two days later by Nace Dixon's Undertaking Firm. Charity Headspeth died of Bronchial Pneumonia due to exposure on April 17, 1947. She was buried in Mt Olive four days later. Her funeral was delayed to allow out of state family members to attend.

Most of the remaining family relocated to other states. Bennie Joe and Elgie remained in Clarksville. Jennie and her daughter Charity moved to New York. No record currently has been found on Bertie Will Milam after the 1940 census.

Bibliography

Montgomery County, Tennessee Census (1900, 1910, 1920, 1930, 1940).

Tennessee Death Records, 1908-1958; Tennessee State Library and Archives; Nashville, Tennessee.

Tennessee State Marriages, 1780-2002; Tennessee State Library and Archives; Nashville, Tennessee.

Preservation and Restoration Update

Written by Mike Taliento, Director of Preservation and Restoration

General Update

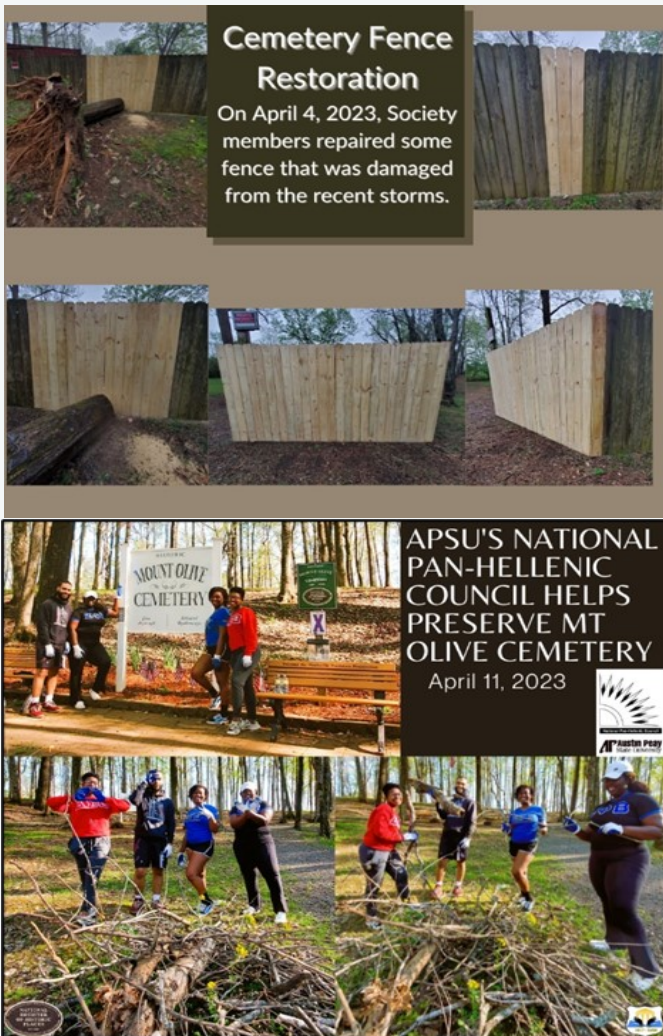
Happy New Year!

Notwithstanding the downed trees and damage suffered by the rash of storms over the past month or so, the cemetery grounds are improving on a weekly basis. Decidedly, the Preservation and Maintenance mission is off to a great start in 2023!

Weekly Cemetery Preservation & Maintenance Day

Every Tuesday 3:30-5:00pm

Society members, friends and our APSU community partners began joining forces to conduct our weekly clean-up sessions in March. We've had some great turnouts and our work efforts have focused on repairing our neighbor's fence, clearing storm debris and trail clean-up activities.



I want to thank Mr. David Davenport, the Society's Director of APSU Engagement for his support in coordinating volunteers! Thank you, David!

Preservation and Restoration Update

The Society Completes Major Restoration and Preservation Projects

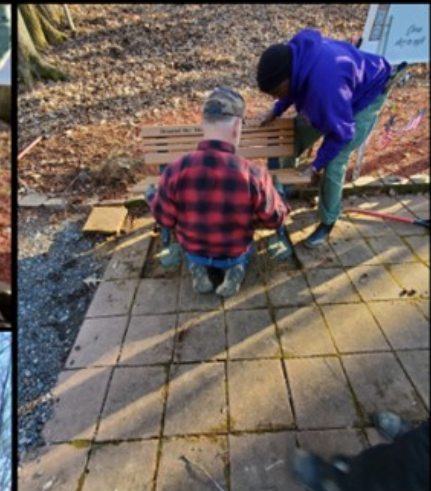
Since the start of the new year, the Society has completed the installation of numerous projects. The planning and coordination for these projects began in 2022. Many of these projects were funded through grants written by our Director of Education and Engagement Dr. Tyler Nolting.

The Memorial Headstone was donated by Mr. Jim Handcock and the headstone design, artwork and installation was donated by Clarksville's Hutton Monument Company. Installation of the other projects was accomplished with support from the Wounded Warrior Project, Omega PSI PHI, Society Friends and Members. The Society thanks everyone that supported these projects!

- Installation of 6 new Park Benches (Predators Foundation Grant)**
- Installation of 3 Interpretive Panels (Predators Foundation Grant)**
- Installation of 7 Street Signposts (The Daniel Fund – CFMT Grant)**
- Installation of Memorial Headstone (Mr. Handcock/Hutton Monument Donation)**

The Park Bench Project

OMEGA PSI PHI AND THE WOUNDED
WARRIOR PROJECT INSTALL NEW BENCHES
AT MT OLIVE CEMETERY 27 JAN 2023



Preservation and Restoration Update

The Interpretive Panel Project



The Trail Signs Project



Trail Signs Project Complete
1 MAR 2023

Thanks to the Grateful Daniel Fund
for a \$1,500 Discretionary Grant



Preservation and Restoration Update

The Headstone Memorial Project

A formal unveiling and dedication ceremony will be held on
Memorial Day 29 May 2023 at 9:00am - the community is invited!



MEMORIAL HEADSTONE INSTALLED
BY HUTTON MEMORIAL COMPANY
APRIL 18, 2023

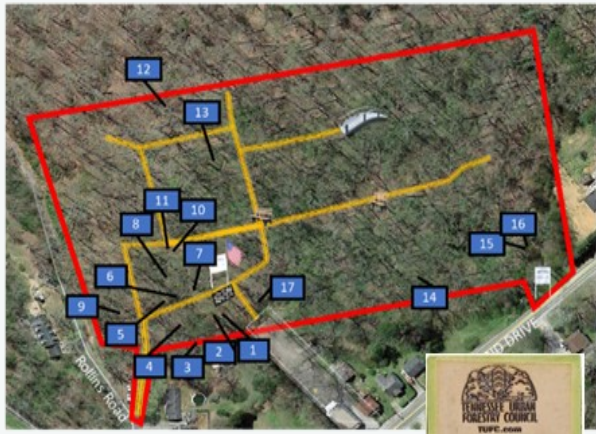


Preservation and Restoration Update

Unveiling Ceremony Set for the Mt Olive Cemetery Tree Sanctuary

The Society will conduct an unveiling ceremony of the Tree Sanctuary Designation Plaque and Tree Markers on **Memorial Day 29 May 2023 at 9:00am**. In December 2022, the Tennessee Urban Forestry Council approved the Society's application to become an official State Tree Sanctuary. With help from **Karla Gargus (University of Tennessee's AG Extension Office)**, the Society completed a tree inventory which required the identification at least 10 tree species on the property and to submit pictures and a map of the trees. Currently the Society identified 17 species, and certainly have even more that may allow us to obtain an arboretum status sometime in the future. **AARP of Tennessee** has supported this preservation effort and is donating the individual tree markers. The Society thanks Karla Gargus and Stacy Pennington (AARP) for their leadership and support of this project.

TREE INVENTORY LOCATOR MAP



1. Black Cherry
2. Hackberry
3. Osage Orange
4. Sweet Gum
5. Red Oak
6. White Oak
7. Scarlet Red Oak
8. Red Maple
9. Common Persimmon
10. Red Cedar
11. Beech
12. Dogwood
13. Tulip Poplar
14. Honey Locust
15. Magnolia
16. Sycamore
17. Tree of Heaven

MT OLIVE CEMETERY – CLARKSVILLE

SHAGBARK HICKORY
 SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Carya Ovata*
 FAMILY: *Juglandaceae (Walnut)*
 ORIGIN: *North America*

MT OLIVE CEMETERY HISTORICAL PRESERVATION SOCIETY

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

Tree Sanctuary Signs Donated By: **AARP**

The Society conducts major restoration and clean-up mission in support of the Great American Clean-up with the Wounded Warrior Project and Team RWB on 16 April 2023



WOUNDED WARRIOR PROJECT AND TEAM RWB LANDSCAPES GATHERING SPACE AND PLACES MEMORIAL GRAVE MARKER

WOUNDED WARRIOR PROJECT DISCOVERS TWO HEADSTONES
 Eddie Headspeth
 11 JUL 1897 - 14 JUL 1943
 Charity Headspeth
 23 APR 1884 - 17 APR 1947

WOUNDED WARRIOR PROJECT

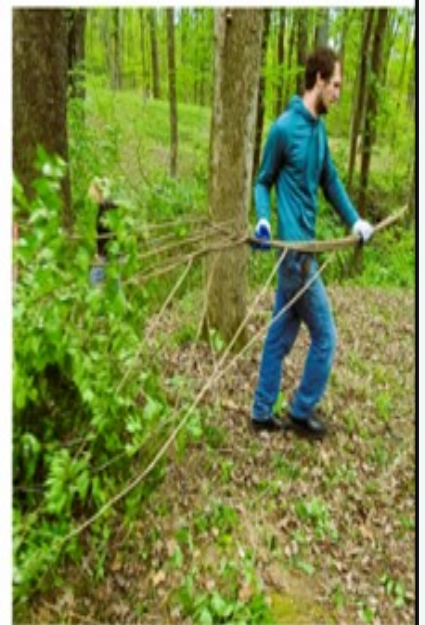
Preservation and Restoration Update



GREAT AMERICAN CLEANUP
Mt Olive Cemetery
**WOUNDED
WARRIOR PROJECT**



16 APR 2023



Preservation and Restoration Update

Restoration and Maintenance Projects Planned for Spring 2023

21 April 2023 – AARP Headstone Restoration Seminar

25 April 2023 – Weekly Clean-up Projects

23-30 April 2023 – Cumberland Dr Flower Bed Project

2,8,16,23,30 May 2023 - Weekly Clean-up Projects

2-8 May 2023 - Install NRHP Sign at Rollins Road Cemetery Entrance

23-30 May 2023 - Tree Sanctuary Sign Installation

26 May 2023 – AARP Cemetery Bridge Restoration Project

2023 Memorial Day Ceremony

The Society will host a Memorial Day Ceremony on 29 May 2023 at 9:00am.

The Ceremony will include the unveiling of the following achievements:

The Predator's Foundation Bench and Interpretative Panel Projects

The Daniel Fund/Community Foundation of Middle Tennessee Trails Signs Project

The Society's memorial headstone Project

The Tennessee Urban Forestry Council Tree Sanctuary Designation Project

Education and Engagement Update

Written by Dr. Tyler Nolting, Director of Education and Engagement

General Update

The year 2023 has gotten off to a wonderful start, and the spring has been packed full of a variety of educational engagements with the Clarksville community and beyond.

Clarksville Academy High School Students Visit the Cemetery

The Society would like to thank Coach Scott Murray and Clarksville Academy for coordinating a tour of Mt Olive Cemetery for a group of high school students in the school's Winterim program.

The tour focused on the physical and mental health experiences of several individuals interred at the cemetery. Additionally, students learned about the general health experiences of African Americans from the early 1800s until the mid-1950s, including both Veteran and non-Veteran populations.

It was an awesome experience, and the Society thanks Clarksville Academy staff and students for their attentiveness, respect, and honor they gave to the cemetery and those interred today.



Education and Engagement Update

Mt Olive Cemetery Featured in January 2023 Edition of *Second & Commerce Magazine*

Please enjoy the January 2023 edition of *Second & Commerce*, the quarterly magazine published by the Customs House Museum & Cultural Center. Mt Olive Cemetery has a story included in the publication, and we hope you enjoy reading and learning about the cemetery's history and the impact those interred there had and continue to have on the Clarksville community.

Here is the link:

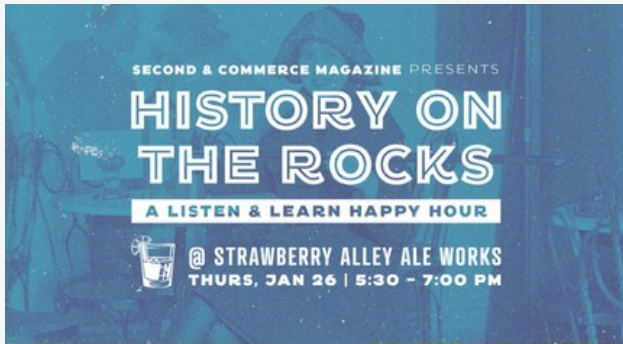
<https://issuu.com/customhousemuseum/docs/sc-vol2issue2-final-issuu-all>



Society Presents Publication at Customs House Museum & Cultural Center Event: *History on the Rocks*

The Society was pleased to present our *Second & Commerce* publication, "Mt Olive Cemetery: You Won't Die Twice," at the Customs House Museum & Cultural Center's History on the Rocks event, held on Thursday, January 26th, at 5:30 p.m., at Strawberry Alley Ale Works.

Education and Engagement Update



MOCHPS Presents Article at "History on the Rocks" Event



A HISTORIC AFRICAN AMERICAN BURIAL GROUND

At 7.24 acres, Mt Olive Cemetery is one of the largest African American burial grounds in Clarksville. Ground penetrating radar (GPR), conducted in 2005 by Dr. Robert Freedland of the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, identified an estimated 900 graves. GPR was conducted again in 2010 by Dr. Daniel Frederick of Austin Peay State University and some of his students, which found an estimated 400 additional graves. Thus, a conservative approximation of the total interments at Mt Olive Cemetery is 1,350, considering that previous GPR did not survey all 7.24 acres of the cemetery. Nearly all those interred at Mt Olive were enslaved or were descendants of enslaved persons, and more than 90% of the graves are unmarked, with the known headstones ranging from rudimentary hand carvings to elaborate monuments. The first burial was James Hunt, who died September 8, 1817, and the last burial was Oscar Jasper Holmes, who died February 22, 1958.

The cemetery, tucked away amongst the trees off Cumberland Drive, was originally part of a 120-acre tract of land, which exchanged hands at least 10 times since 1880 without ever having an African American owner. Currently, 305 individuals interred at Mt Olive Cemetery have been identified: 273 civilians and 32 veterans. Thirty of the veterans were United States Colored Troops (USCT), one was a Buffalo Soldier and one served during World War II.

THE CITIZENS OF MT OLIVE CEMETERY: BUILDING CLARKSVILLE'S COMMUNITY

The 273 known civilians interred at Mt Olive Cemetery built Clarksville into the community it is today. The women buried there performed largely domestic labor, working as housekeepers, cooks, laundresses, teachers, midwives, nurses, tobacco sorters, dairy workers, hairdressers and hotel waitresses. Men labored mostly outside of the house, working as truck drivers, teamsters, shoemakers, barbers, carpenters, gardeners, farmers, painters, tailors, porters, ministers, tobacco laborers, butlers, miners, boot blacks, wagnoneers, merchants, coopers, janitors, factory workers, plasterers and blacksmiths.

The average life expectancy of the citizens interred at Mt Olive was 47 years for the women and 42.7 years for the men. Nearly 20% of these individuals died before the age of 18 and more than 7% died before the age of one.

VETERANS OF MT OLIVE CEMETERY: FIGHTING FOR FREEDOM, DIGNITY AND RESPECT

Of the 32 veterans interred at Mt Olive, the 30 USCT served in the 12th, 13th, 14th, 15th, 16th, 59th and 101st regiments. The one Buffalo Soldier served in the 24th Infantry Regiment, and the WWII veteran served in the 25th Infantry Regiment. Headstones have been found for 27 of the 32 veterans.

SECOND & COMMERCE / 11



Society, African American Legacy Trail, and Friends Present USCT Event at the Customs House Museum & Cultural Center

On February 2, 2023, the Society, the Clarksville African American Legacy Trail, and Ebone Amos of AP-SU, provided a special presentation at the Customs House Museum & Cultural Center to remember and honor the United States Colored Troops (USCT). You may view the video of the performance at the following link: <https://www.facebook.com/mtolivechps/videos/1337863350087078>

In the video:

- 1) First, Nick Nicholson presents an exposé into the mind of a USCT.
- 2) Next, Ebone Amos, Assistant Professor of African American Studies at APSU, presents a dance depicting the emotions and feelings of a mother of a USCT at war. The song is "Nobody Knows the Troubles I've Seen," performed by Mahalia Jackson.

Education and Engagement Update

3) Finally, Tyler Nolting, the Society's Director of Education and Engagement, performs an original song, which depicts the story of an enslaved man of African descent becoming a USCT.



Society Presents “Life as a USCT: A Black History Month Presentation”

On 11 FEB 2023 at 1300 hrs, the Society hosted a Black History Month presentation at Fort Defiance Civil War Park & Interpretive Center titled, "Life as a USCT." Thanks to everyone who came to the presentation. The Society appreciates and values your support! Please enjoy some photos below.

Also, please enjoy a video of the event, which was recorded by the Tennessee African American Historical Group (TAAHG).

Thank you, Delton Wells, the Society's Director of Military Engagement, and member of TAAHG, for capturing the event. Here is the link to the video:

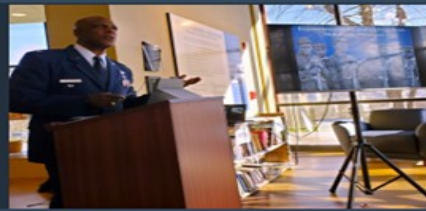
<https://www.facebook.com/tnaaresearch/videos/524215333155278>

Education and Engagement Update

**MT OLIVE CEMETERY HISTORICAL PRESERVATION SOCIETY
"LIFE AS A USCT": A BLACK HISTORY MONTH PRESENTATION
11 FEB 23 @ 1300 HRS
FORT DEFIANCE**

Nick Nicholson, President

Colonel Nicholson (Ret.) welcomed the audience, described Mt Olive Cemetery, and also delivered an "Expose into the Mind of a USCT."



Nettie Thomas, Women Veterans of America Chapter 47

Ms. Thomas, sang a beautiful acapella rendition of the National Anthem.

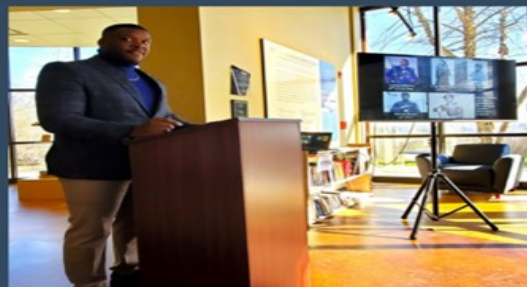
Dr. Ivan Mosley, Omega Psi Phi



Omega Psi Phi member and professor at Tennessee State University, Dr. Mosley provided an overview of Black History Month, emphasizing and celebrating the contributions of African Americans from 1915 to present-day.

Delton Wells, Director of Military Engagement

Sergeant Wells provided an overview of the USCT, from their mustering in to their mustering out, also covering information about the Buffalo Soldiers.



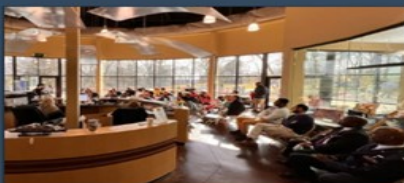
Phyllis Smith, Historian



Ms. Smith provided an overview of the 31 USCT interred at Mt Olive Cemetery, with a special emphasis on the 16th USCT and Shelby Clark, who is interred in the cemetery.

Terry Morris, Director of the African American Legacy Trail

Mr. Morris presented information about USCT reenactment and the process of loading in nine times, a common battle drill of the USCT.



Dr. Tyler Nolting, Director of Education and Engagement

Dr. Nolting presented an original song, reflecting on the journey from enslaved to USCT soldier.

Education and Engagement Update

Genevia Ann Bell Featured in *Clarksville Now* Black History Month Article

On February 13, 2023, an article written by Chris Smith was published on the Clarksville Now webpage. The title of the article is, "10 Black Leaders Who Helped Shape Clarksville's History," and in the article, Genevia Ann Bell, the founder of the Mt Olive Cemetery Historical Preservation Society was featured. We are delighted to see that her servant leadership has left an amazing legacy. Here is the link to the article: <https://clarksvillenow.com/local/10-black-leaders-who-helped-shape-clarksvilles-history/>

Bell moved to Clarksville in the 1990s from California, where she was active in 4-H programs and efforts to help at-risk youth. As early as 1998, Bell organized annual Make A Difference Day events in Clarksville with projects organized around a new community garden, health fairs, grandparent support, bone marrow donation and more. In 2007, Bell was honored with a \$10,000 grant from USA Weekend magazine for a Make a Difference Day event that created scholarships to help people get their GED. Bell died Sept. 25, 2018, at the age of 77. She is remembered in a historic marker at **Mount Olive Cemetery**.

10 Black leaders who helped shape Clarksville's history

By *Chris Smith* February 12, 2023 3:00 pm



Source: Clarksville Now | Pastor Jimmy Terry Sr.

CLARKSVILLE, TN (**CLARKSVILLE NOW**) – Leadership is never easy. Putting yourself out there at the risk of public criticism, insult or failure can be uncomfortable. But when you're Black – particularly during the Jim Crow or civil rights era in the South – those risks go well beyond discomfort. This year, in honor of Black History Month, let's look back at not just at the "firsts" in local history, and not just at athletes and artists, but to leaders who took the risks and rose to the top to make Clarksville a better place for everyone.

1. Genevia Bell

Uncovered Mount Olive Cemetery



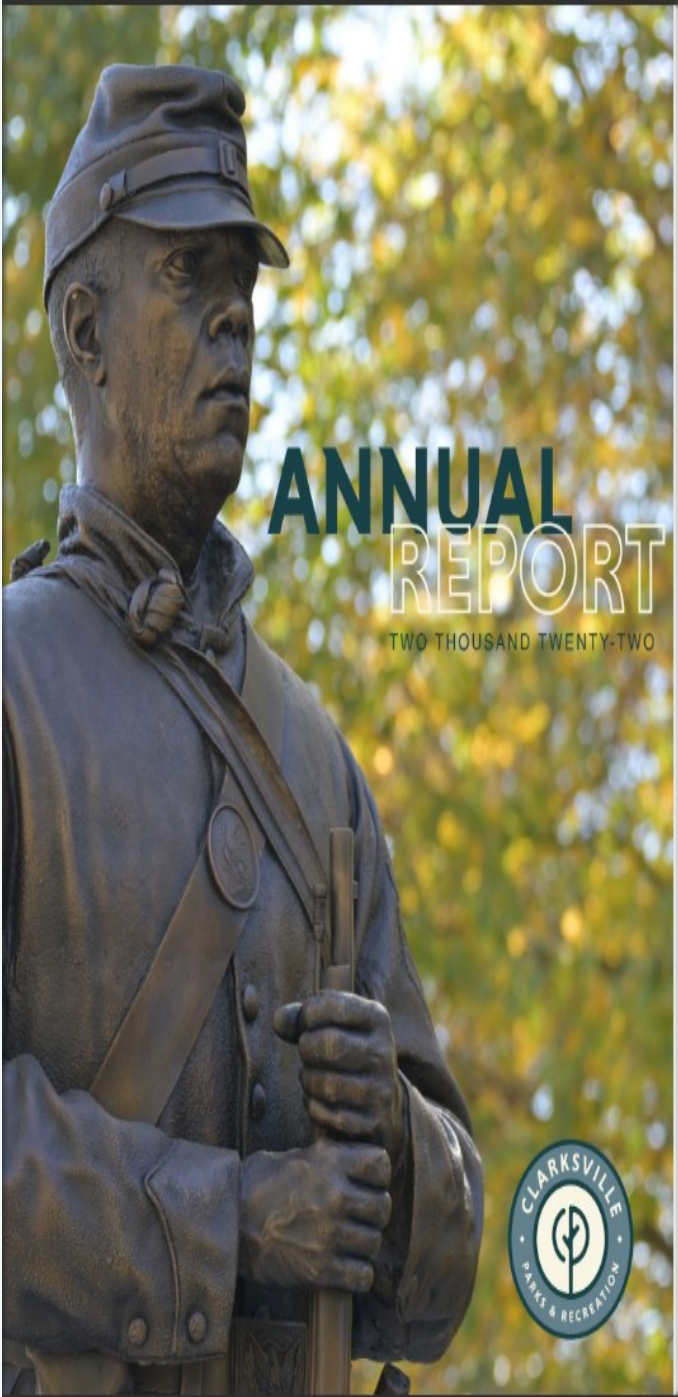
Genevia Bell (Contributed)

For several years in Clarksville, Genevia ("Geneva") Ann Bell was a one-woman whirlwind of advocacy and altruism. In 2001, when she was 60 years old, just a year after getting her GED, Bell was taking a history class at Austin Peay State University and learned out about Mount Olive Cemetery. She went to visit the Black cemetery off of Rollins Drive and was shocked to find it covered in debris and garbage, having been largely ignored and forgotten for decades. It contains more than 1,300 graves, some dating to the early 1800s. Among those buried there are freed slaves and 25 Black Civil War soldiers. Bell founded the Mount Olive Cemetery Historical Preservation Society and solicited help over the years from Austin Peay State University, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, ROTC groups and more. The cemetery is now listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Education and Engagement Update

The Society commissioned the production of this monument and donated it to the City of Clarksville as a way to honor and celebrate the 20,133 USCT of Tennessee, of which 31 are interred at Mt Olive Cemetery.

Here is a link to the report: <https://online.fliphtml5.com/yarrh/oxru/#p=1> online.fliphtml5.com/yarrh/oxru/#p=1



CLARKSVILLE PARKS & RECREATION ANNUAL REPORT 26

FORT DEFIANCE

Located on a bluff above the confluence of the Red and Cumberland Rivers in Clarksville, Tennessee, the Fort Defiance site has been a hub of activity for more than two centuries. It is one of our most unique facilities and bring visitors from across the country into Clarksville each year.



U.S. COLORED TROOPS MONUMENT

Donated by the Mt. Olive Cemetery Historical Preservation Society, the monument honors 170,000 U.S. Colored Troops, many of whom were former slaves and served in the Union Army during the Civil War. It is a life size bronze casting and Georgian Granite monument, with the monument and the statue standing nine feet high. The model for the sculpture was Bill Radcliffe, a Navy veteran, firefighter, and U.S. Colored Troops Reenactor who lives in Nashville.

Education and Engagement Update

Society Board Members Interviewed on WSMV 4 News for Black History Month

Society board members, Nick Nicholson (President) and Phyllis Smith (Historian) appeared on WSMV 4 News for Black History Month on Thursday, February 23, 2023. Please take some time to watch the video at the following link: <https://www.wsmv.com/2023/02/24/mt-olive-cemetery-historical-preservation-society-works-keep-cemeterys-black-history-alive/?fbclid=IwAR0F0AmwnSxbKVZBZZibVG8kFjIEOJW9Bz4M1yZWYEQMbtJYMfIMQrLyqMQ>



The graphic features a blue background with a white border. At the top left is the WSMV 4 logo with the years 1817-1958. At the top right is a circular seal for the National Register of Historic Places. The main text reads "WSMV 4 News Interview" in large white letters, followed by "Mt Olive Cemetery Historical Preservation Society" and "Thursday, February 23rd" in smaller white text. Below this are five photographs: a statue of a man in a military uniform, a view of the cemetery with an American flag, a sign for "HISTORIC MOUNT OLIVE CEMETERY", a man speaking at a podium, and a woman sitting in a chair.

Arthur "Nick" Nicholson
President and Executive Director

Phyllis Smith
Historian

President Nicholson Featured on Podcast: "Frankly Speaking with Tyra G"

President of the Mt. Olive Cemetery Historical Preservation Society, Arthur "Nick" Nicholson, was a recent guest on the podcast, "Frankly Speaking with Tyra G." In order to commemorate Black History Month and to honor and celebrate the United States Colored Troops (USCT), President Nicholson performed an original spoken word piece titled, "The Exposé into the Mind of the USCT."

Education and Engagement Update

You are welcome to listen to the podcast at Tyra Garlington's webpage at the following link: <https://tyragarlington.com/black-history-month-stories.../>

You may also listen to the podcast through whichever medium you consume podcasts (e.g., Apple Music, Amazon Music, Spotify, etc.). Just search for "Frankly Speaking with Tyra G."

On the podcast episode, President Nicholson is introduced at the 6:49 mark, and he completes his interview at the 28:24 mark. He invites you to reflect on his words and the history experienced by the USCT. Enjoy!

APSU Students Participate in Headstone-Cleaning Seminar and Tour

On Wednesday, March 15, 2023, APSU students in HHP 3450: Health Issues of Special Populations participated in a headstone-cleaning seminar and tour of the cemetery (through the lens of public health).



APSU HHP 3450 Tour and Headstone Cleaning 15 March 2023



Education and Engagement Update



APSU Students Help Clean Up Mt Olive Cemetery

Today, March 28th, 2023, two APSU students, Laila Holmes and Perriona-Zamari Chihi, helped with clearing tree debris during the Society's weekly cleanup session. Thank you for your service to Mt Olive Ceme-



APSU STUDENTS, LAILA HOLMES AND PERRIONA-ZAMARI CHIHI, HELP CLEAN UP MT OLIVE CEMETERY ON MARCH 28, 2023



Education and Engagement Update

Society Installs Bronze Plaque at Fort Defiance to Recognize and Honor Nashville Predators Foundation

On March 28, 2023, the Society installed a bronze plaque and post at Fort Defiance Civil War Park & Interpretive Center to recognize and celebrate the Nashville Predators Foundation, which awarded the Society a \$10,000 Helper Grant in 2022 for our Wayside Exhibits Project.

This plaque specifically commemorates the two United States Colored Troops (USCT) wayside exhibits, which are on each side of the USCT monument, which was donated by the Society to the City of Clarksville on Juneteenth weekend of 2022.

Thank you, Nashville Predators Foundation!



Education and Engagement Update

Society Recognized in APSU's SHAPE Campaign for Work with APSU Students

Society board members did a wonderful job in helping make this experience happen for APSU students!

Upon reflecting on the experience, one student remarked, "I was touched by the stories of my people. I was even more touched by the actions of others who have never met these USCT and their families, yet, they take the time out of their lives to care for them."

A group of students stated that, "Prior to meeting the Society members and going to Mt Olive Cemetery, we were not very interested or have an understanding of the history and importance of keeping the memories alive. Their passion was very respectful and cleaning headstones gave us all a sense of pride and connection."

the **SHAPE** campaign



On March 15, 2023, as part of HHP 3450: Health Issues of Special Populations, students learned about the health experiences of African Americans throughout history by touring one of Clarksville's oldest and largest African American burial grounds, Mt. Olive Cemetery. Through this experience, students learned about the health disparities, inequities, racism and oppression faced by African Americans from the early 1800s through the mid-1900s via an interactive tour through the lens of public health. This tour explored life stories of many individuals interred in the cemetery, speaking to their experiences with morbidity and mortality. Students also received a headstone-cleaning seminar and had the opportunity to clean a number of headstones in the cemetery. By exerting themselves for others through the intimate experience of cleaning the headstones of formerly enslaved people, or descendants of enslaved people, students acted in a meaningful way to create more racial solidarity and harmony in the community.

- Tyler Nolting
Assistant Professor
Health and Human Performance

AP Austin Peay
State University
CLARKSVILLE • TENNESSEE



Education and Engagement Update

Society Featured on Frankly Speaking with Tyra G Radio Show and Podcast

The Society is thrilled to have received the opportunity to be featured on the podcast, "Frankly Speaking with Tyra G," and we would like to share the recording to all of those interested in listening to the episode. The Society spoke on the topic of "Their Struggle Was Real," which highlights the story of Mt Olive Cemetery, those interred, and how African Americans persevered and built a community, despite living during times of extreme oppression and racism in America.

You can listen to the podcast at Tyra Garlington's website at <https://tyragarlington.com/mt-olive-cemetery-historical.../>.

Another way to access the podcast is by using any podcast-streaming platform and searching for Episode 266 on "Frankly Speaking with Tyra G." Additionally, the episode will be replayed on www.radiofairfax.com on Saturday, May 6, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. CST.

Thank you all for your support and interest in learning about African American history of Clarksville, TN!

MT OLIVE CEMETERY HISTORICAL PRESERVATION SOCIETY FEATURED ON PODCAST: FRANKLY SPEAKING WITH TYRA G

Topic: "Their Struggle Was Real"

April 29 and May 6, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. CST on Channel 37 of www.radiofairfax.com

AND

May 2, 2023 on any podcast streaming platform and at www.tyragarlington.com under the "Media" tab

Coming Soon!

APSU What's Up Wednesdays Presentation at Honors Commons

Society Director of Education and Engagement and Assistant Professor of Public Health at APSU, Dr. Tyler Nolting, presented at APSU's Honors Commons to APSU Honors Students on April 12, 2023, about all of the happenings of the Society since January of 2022 until April of 2023.

APSU's What's Up Wednesday:
My Experiences with Mt Olive Cemetery

Dr. Tyler Nolting, Ph.D., MPH, MCHES®
Assistant Professor of Public Health

April 12, 2023



Education and Engagement Update

Private Joe King Bailey's Headstone is Replaced by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Private Joe King Bailey, who is the only World War II Veteran interred at Mt Olive Cemetery, had his broken headstone replaced by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. His new headstone was received today and will be installed later this spring.

"Private Joe King Bailey," the Society says your name aloud today, knowing you will NEVER die twice.

Rest in peace, Private Bailey.

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Replaces Private Joe King Bailey's Headstone Received on 28 APR 2023

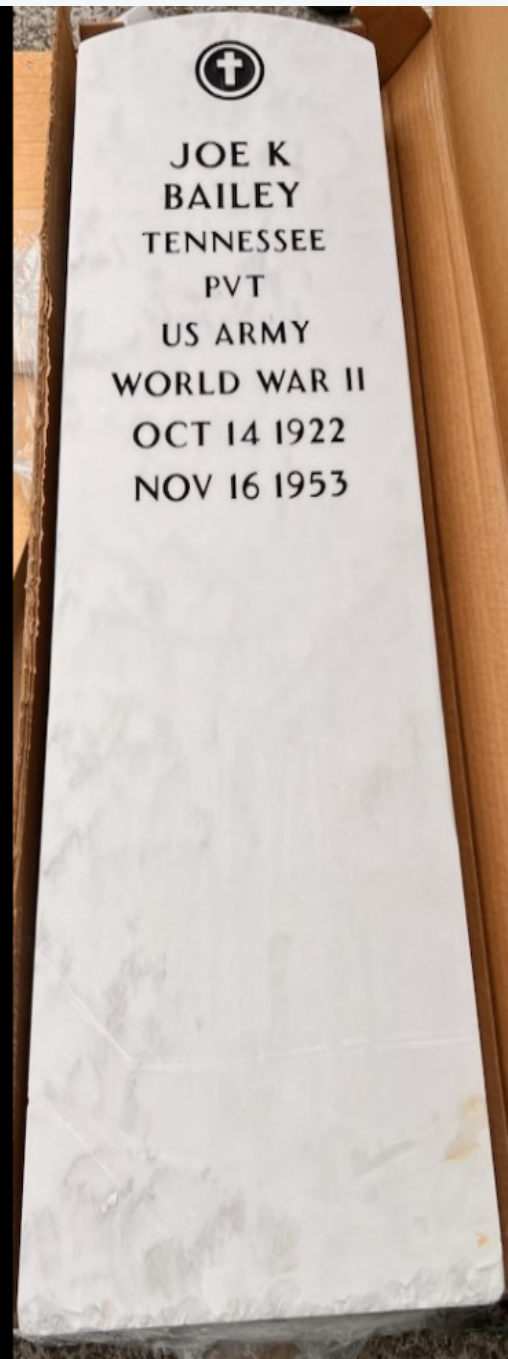
Private Bailey was born October 14, 1922, in Louisville, Kentucky. He registered for the draft in 1941 and was inducted to serve with Company H of the Army's 25th Infantry Regiment on February 11, 1943. He was 5 feet 4 inches tall and 127 pounds. He received an honorable discharge on October 26, 1943. He lived and worked as a laborer in Indianapolis, Indiana after his discharge.

He died at the age of 31, on November 16, 1953, from a cervical spine fracture after falling out of the passenger seat of a dump truck as the driver made a left turn at a street intersection.

Private Bailey never married and was buried at Mt Olive Cemetery by Foston's Funeral Home.

His mother, Annie, applied for a military headstone, which was installed in October of 1955.

Six members of Private Bailey's family are buried at Mt Olive Cemetery: Guston Sr. (grandfather), Guston Jr. (father), Charles Sr. (uncle), Letha (aunt), Charles Jr. (cousin), and James (cousin).

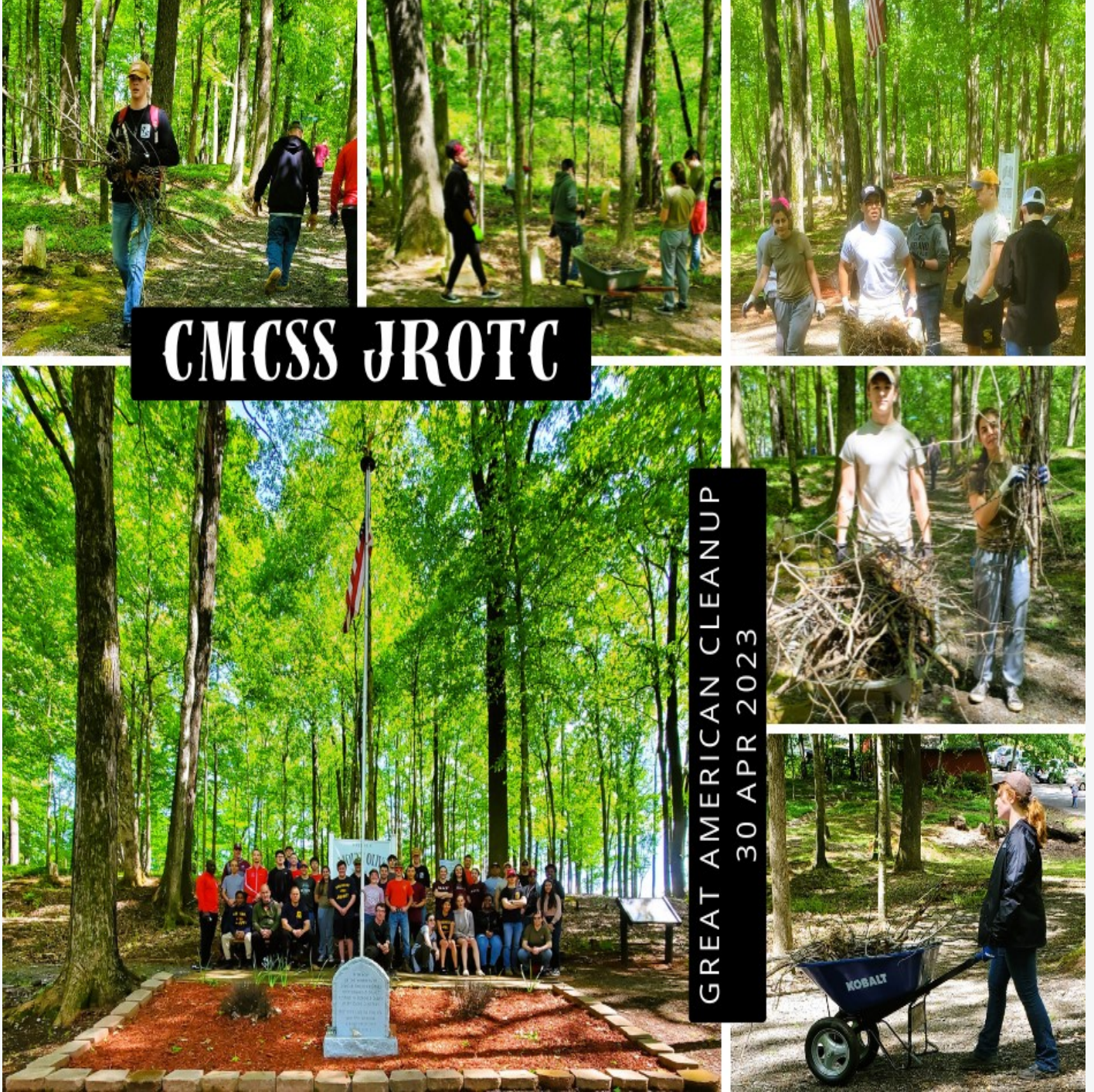


Education and Engagement Update

CMCSS JROTC Cadets Participate in the Great American Cleanup 2023

On 30 Apr. 2023, CMCSS JROTC cadets participated in the Great American Cleanup by clearing tree debris at Mt Olive Cemetery.

Thank you all for beautifying and preserving this historic and special place!



Education and Engagement Update

Hutton Monument Company Provides Hands-On Headstone Restoration Training to Society

Hutton Monument Company provided the Society hands-on headstone restoration training today. We thank them for their time and expertise!



SOCIETY MEMBERS RECEIVE HANDS-ON HEADSTONE RESTORATION TRAINING FROM HUTTON MONUMENT COMPANY
2 MAY 2023



Education and Engagement Update

Society to be Featured in May 2023 AARP Bulletin

In May of 2023, the Society will be featured on page 44 of the AARP Bulletin.

Your AARP
State News



GET MORE STORIES Scan this code with your smartphone camera to find your AARP state page for more stories and resources, or go to aarp.org/states.



ARKANSAS

Getting connected Arkansas ranks 49th nationally in the quality of its internet service, making it harder for hundreds of thousands of Arkansas individuals and businesses to use telehealth services, watch movies online or keep in touch with loved ones.

New federal funds will help more Arkansans get up to speed. The Affordable Connectivity Program provides up to \$30 a month for internet bills for households with incomes no more than twice the federal poverty level (or that receive certain other benefits); households can also get a one-time discount of up to \$100 to purchase a computer or tablet. Details at fcc.gov/acp or aarp.org/acp.

The state is also using federal funds to boost broadband in rural and some urban areas. AARP Arkansas will help influence the state's direction with a seat on a key planning committee.

TENNESSEE

Preserving history AARP Tennessee is looking for volunteers to help Mt. Olive Cemetery in Clarksville protect a recently constructed pedestrian bridge at the historic site.

Volunteers will assist the Mt. Olive Cemetery Historical Preservation Society in applying a waterproofing wood sealer to the natural wood components. The event will be held Friday, May 26, from 1-3 p.m.

No special skills are necessary, but advance sign-up is required at aarp.org/tn.

Mt. Olive Cemetery is the oldest and largest private African American burial site in Clarksville. It was established around 1817. Of the cemetery's 1,350-plus graves, the society says 33 hold the remains of veterans; of those, 31 were members of the United States Colored Troops—African American soldiers who fought for the Union in the Civil War.

MISSISSIPPI

Stepping to better health Regular walks can help improve cardiovascular fitness, cognition, memory, sleep and the immune system. To help residents get out on the trails, AARP Mississippi has joined Walk With a Doc, a nonprofit that brings together doctors and those looking to improve their health.

Upcoming walks are on Saturdays—May 13, June 10 and July 8—at 8:30 a.m. at Parham Bridges Park, 5055 Old Canton Road in Jackson. After hearing a medical professional speak about a current health topic, participants will spend the rest of the hour walking outdoors and engaging with the medical professional.

The events may be canceled for adverse weather. No special gear is required; participants walk at their own pace. To register, visit aarp.org/ms and select Events. For information, email msaarp@aarp.org or call 866-554-5382.

LOUISIANA

Taking the lead AARP Louisiana is looking for volunteers in the Lake Charles area to join its Executive Council.

The Executive Council is a team of lead volunteers that informs and helps make decisions on AARP Louisiana priorities, shaping the organization's work throughout the state. It works with the state president, state director and other staff. Members serve two-year terms.

The time commitment is flexible. The Executive Council meets at least four times a year, and travel and other expenses are reimbursed. Visit aarp.org/la to learn more and to complete an application. You can also contact LaTonya Scott at lscott@aarp.org or 225-376-1158.

VIRGIN ISLANDS

Enhancing food security Gov. Albert Bryan in February signed a bill to help boost the U.S. Virgin Islands' agricultural sector—a measure supported by AARP.

The bill devotes \$2.2 million for the adoption of various portions of the Virgin Islands Agricultural Plan, which was released in 2022 and is aimed at strengthening sustainable, community-based local food and farming businesses.

The U.S. Virgin Islands imports 97 percent of its food supply, leaving residents susceptible to shortages and often limiting the availability of fresh food. It also drives up costs for residents.

AARP Virgin Islands asked attendees at the recent Bordeaux agriculture fair about important issues, finding that food insecurity ranked high as one for elected officials to address.

Stay up to date by visiting aarp.org/vi, facebook.com/aarpvi and twitter.com/aarpvi.

—Susan Milligan

Education and Engagement Update

Check Out Our Website and Facebook Pages

In order to view the Society's activities in more detail, please visit our website at <https://mtolivechps.weebly.com/> and our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/mtolivechps>.

Looking Ahead

The Society is exploring the opportunity to create a historical marker through the Tennessee Historical Commission to honor Mt Olive Cemetery. Also, in December of 2023, the Society will be awarding the first-ever Geneva Ann Bell Servant Leader Award. We are excited for these opportunities and others that may arise throughout the year.

Interested in Contributing to our Organization?

The Society has ambitious objectives in 2023, and any monetary contributions are appreciated and will help advance our organization's mission of emphasizing the influence and contributions of African Americans regarding the history, education, development, growth, and culture of the Clarksville area.

The money you contribute will be utilized in funding the following: operating costs, gift-wrapping supplies, historical interpretive panels, grave markers, commercial waste receptacles, printing costs for ceremony programs and African American Legacy Trail brochures, and flower planting supplies. See the image below for the Society's 2023 needs.



Education and Engagement Update

In order to contribute to the Society through our Giving Matters.com profile, please use the following link: <https://givingmatters.civicore.com/mtolivechps>, or you may also click on the Giving Matters icon on our website's homepage at <https://mtolivechps.weebly.com/>.

The image below is a picture of our website's homepage, with the Giving Matters icon above the cemetery image.

MT OLIVE CEMETERY HISTORICAL PRESERVATION SOCIETY

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Mt Olive Cemetery Historical Preservation Society

University/APSU Engagement Update

Greetings from the newly appointed Director of University/APSU Engagement. My name is David Davenport and I have been in Clarksville (and working at Austin Peay) since 2003. Originally from Atlanta GA by way of Norfolk Virginia and Boone North Carolina, I appreciate the opportunity to work closer with the team with the MOCHPS. My goals that will support the mission of the society will be to get more of the Austin Peay Community engaged and educated to what the society has to offer. It is my hope that we will be able to engage a group of students, on a regular basis, to assist the preservation of the cemetery itself. During the month of April two different sets of students, representing The National PanHellenic Council (Black Greek Letter Organizations) and Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Inc., worked on assisting with the beautification of the area. It is my hope that we will soon see student athletes and other student orgs present. Stay Tuned.

David

Special Dedication

DEDICATED TO MT OLIVE CEMETERY'S UNKNOWN SOULS

OF THE ESTIMATED 1,350 AFRICAN
AMERICAN SOULS INTERRED ON MT OLIVE
CEMETERY'S 7.24 ACRES, MORE THAN
90% DO NOT HAVE A HEADSTONE OR
OTHER GRAVE MARKER. THUS, THIS ISSUE
OF THE SOCIETY'S NEWSLETTER IS
DEDICATED TO THEM.

**"You may have died one time,
But you won't die twice."**

