

PRESIDENT'S PEN

Written by Nick Nicholson, President

Hello everyone. I hope you are all doing well. In an effort to keep our members and others who cannot make our monthly meetings informed of the many plans and accomplishments that are taking place with the Mt Olive Cemetery Historical Preservation Society, we decided to launch the Mt Olive Cemetery Historical Preservation Society Newsletter.

The newsletter will be our tool to inform, inspire, engage, and educate. It will inform you about things that have happened or will happen. It will hopefully inspire your participation and support given the many things that we are doing currently and plan to do in the future. It will also engage and educate through the "Remembrance of the Month," and information from our Directors of Education and Engagement, Preservation and Maintenance, and the African American Legacy Trail.

We are excited to use this vehicle as a platform for sustaining and growing membership throughout the Clarksville-Montgomery County community.



WHAT'S IN THIS MONTH'S ISSUE:

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- Inaugural Newsletter Dedication





Remembrance of the Month

Written by Phyllis Smith, Historian

Ann and Henry Boyd

In 1870, the Boyd family lived in the Round Pond area in Civil District 17. They were farmers. Jessie Boyd, aged 40, and Ann, aged 30, had real estate worth \$180 and a personal estate of \$100. Five children were listed in the family: Henry, aged 13, listed as a farm laborer; Ulally, aged 10; Eliza, aged 6; Elizabeth, aged 2; and Charles, aged 1.

By 1880, the only family member found in the Montgomery County, Tennessee census was Henry. Henry, aged 25, was now married and he and wife Ella, aged 21, had a one-year-old daughter named Mary. They were still in District 17 and were farming, possibly on his father's land.

Henry enlisted in the Army in 1881 and was described as 5 feet 61/2 inches tall with dark hair, eyes, and complexion. He served with the 20th Infantry and was discharged in May 1882 at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas for an unspecified disability possibly the diabetes which later killed him.

Sullivan Avenue with a widowed daughter, Georgia Boyd, aged 27, and a granddaughter, Lizzie, aged 5.

Ann was working as a nurse, and Georgia was working as a laundress. According to this census. Ann had borne six children but only

Ella Boyd died before 1897 because on October 23, 1897, Henry married Alice Keesee. It was a second marriage for both of them.



No other record of Henry's daughter, Mary, except the 1880 census has been found. It is possible Henry's brief stint in the army was motivated by the loss of his wife and daughter.

Both Ann and Henry were found in the 1900 Montgomery County census and both had moved. Henry and Alice were farming in Civil District 13. Ann, aged 49, was living at 423 Sullivan Avenue with a widowed daughter, Georgia Boyd, aged 27, and a granddaughter, Lizzie, aged 5.

Ann was working as a nurse, and Georgia was working as a laundress. According to this census, Ann had borne six children but only two were still living. This was incorrect as Henry and Eliza were still living and this census lists a third child, Georgia. Eliza could not be found in the 1900 Montgomery County census.

The 1910 Montgomery County census shows Ann and daughter Eliza living on Sullivan Alley. A Granddaughter Georgia, aged 24, lived with them. Ann and Georgia worked in a tobacco factory while Eliza worked as a laundress. Henry and Alice were farming in Civil District 3, and Rachel Isby, Alice's mother, was living with them. Henry owned this farm and had a mortgage. Interestingly, Alice had two children but they did not survive. By 1911, Ann and her daughter Eliza were living together at 614 Franklin Street. Ann was a tobacco stemmer and Eliza was a laundress. By 1920 they were renting 408 Sullivan Avenue, and Eliza was working as a cook. Ann was keeping house. Henry and Alice were renting a farm in District 8. The 1922 Clarksville City Directory listed Ann and Eliza at 421 Lee Street which was located in the Lincoln Holmes area and does not exist today.





Henry died on August 31, 1923 and was living with his mother and sister at 408 Spring Street. Alice was dead because Henry was listed as a widower and Eliza gave the information on his death certificate. Henry died of diabetes at the age of 74 and was buried in Mt Olive by Nace Dixon on August 14, 1923.

Ann died on January 24, 1924 of chronic cystitis. She and Eliza were living at 408 Spring Street when Ann died. Eliza listed Ann's birthplace as Kansas City, Missouri, and the 1870 census listed Henry as born in Missouri. Ann was buried in Mt Olive on January 31, 1924. So far, no tombstone has been found for either Ann or Henry. Eliza and Georgia have not been found on any

Montgomery County record after these dates.

Education and Engagement

Written by Tyler Nolting,
Director of Education and Engagement

The Society has been quite active in our educational engagements with those in the community since I joined as a member in July of 2021. This portion of the newsletter will provide some of the most notable happenings in 2022, presented in chronological order.

U.S. Colored Troops Display Case at Newton Military Family

Resource Center



Spring Cemetery Tours

Below, Phyllis Smith provides a tour on April 21, 2022, to Dr. Monique Freemon's undergraduate public speaking class. Dr. Freemon (on far right hand side) is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Communication at Austin Peay State University.



In March of 2022, the Mt Olive Cemetery
Historical Preservation Society designed and
dedicated a display case to the U.S. Colored
Troops at the Newton Military Family Resource
Center (MFRC) at Austin Peay State University.
On the left, you can see the items that are inside
of the display. The Society thanks Jasmin Linares,
Director of the MFRC, and Major General Walt
Lord, Military Advisor in Residence of the MFRC,
for this opportunity to shine a light on the U.S.
Colored Troops.



Above, On April 22, 2022, Phyllis provided another tour to Dr. Jessica Fripp, Associate Dean of the College of Behavioral and Health Sciences and Associate Professor in the Department of Psychological Science & Counseling at Austin Peay State University.

Wounded Warrior Project Spring Cleanup



Society Board Member Spring Cleanup

On May 1, 2022, members and volunteers of the Society met to plant flowers at the entry way of the cemetery. Below, you can see everyone hard at work.





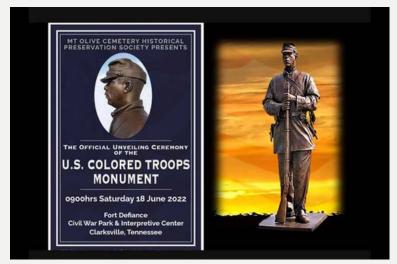
As part of the Great American Cleanup, members of the Wounded Warrior Project work to restore and preserve Mt Olive Cemetery on April 24, 2022. A variety of duties were performed, such as planting flowers and mulching, cleaning headstones, spreading gravel on trails, and clearing debris. See the images on the left and above.

Mt Olive Cemetery Descendant Visits for a Tour

Society Presents for Nashville's Afro-American Genealogy & History Society



On May 7, 2022, members of the Mt Olive Cemetery Historical Preservation Society remotely presented Mt Olive's history to Nashville's Afro-American Genealogy & History Society (AAGHS). The following link is a summary of the presentation by the President of AAGHS, Taneya Koonce: aahgsnashville.org/2022/05/07/meeting-summary-saving-historic-cemeteries/



When in Clarksville a while ago, Sylvia Stanford (above and to the right), a current resident of Washington D.C., was doing genealogical research at the Clarksville-Montgomery County Public Library. Knowing she had family members interred at Mt Olive Cemetery, the library put her in touch with Phyllis Smith (on right). This led to a tour of the cemetery on May 1, 2022, with Phyllis and several other Society members present. Through her previous research and tour, Sylvia demonstrated numerous familial connections to several individuals at Mt Olive Cemetery.



Society Awarded Helper Grant from the Nashville Predators Foundation



From left to right: Gerry Helper, Dr. Tyler Nolting, Dr. Chad Brooks, Linda St. Romain (front), Nick Nicholson, Phyllis Smith, and Gnash. The grant money will be used to purchase five wayside exhibits and six memorial benches, to honor, remember, and celebrate African American history, with a special emphasis on educating youth. Two of the wayside exhibits will be placed around the U.S. Colored Troops monument at Fort Defiance. The other three wayside exhibits will be placed in Mt Olive Cemetery, with each exhibit in the cemetery surrounded by two memorial benches.

From Enslaved to Soldier: The History of Fort Defiance By Tracy Jepson

Tracy Jepson, a historical interpreter living in Clarksville, Tennessee, published an article on May 13, 2022, to Clarksville Online, a digital newspaper for Clarksville and Montgomery County. The article explores the history of the U.S. Colored Troops (USCT) in Clarksville, as well as their connection to Fort Defiance, which is now known as the Fort Defiance Civil War Park and Interpretive Center. Mrs. Jepson connects her story to the USCT monument unveiling ceremony taking place on June 18, 2022 at Fort Defiance, where the community will have the opportunity to honor and celebrate the USCT. Please visit the following link for the story:

www.clarksvilleonline.com/2022/05/13/fromenslaved-to-soldier-the-history-of-fortdefiance/

U.S. Colored Troops Monument Groundbreaking at Fort Defiance



On the left, day one (May 10, 2022) of grounds preparation at Fort Defiance for the U.S. Colored Troops

Monument.



On the left is further grounds preparation progress as of May 17, 2022.

Mt Olive Cemetery Featured in Documentary: Black Mosaic: Reclaiming Clarksville Stories

Angela Peterson, a graduate of Austin Peay State University's Master of Arts program in Communication Arts, created a documentary titled, *Black Mosaic: Reclaiming Clarksville Stories*. This special work contains a wealth of information related to African American history in Clarksville, including that of Mt Olive Cemetery. Thank you, Ms. Peterson, for your efforts and time placed into this project. Please consider taking some time and watching the video at the following link https://youtu.be/fNBUw9eZ01A or by clicking the video below:







Unveiling Ceremony of U.S. Colored Troops Monument at Fort Defiance

The Mt. Olive Cemetery Historical Preservation Society has been on a year-long journey to obtain the support to construct a monument in Clarksville to honor, celebrate, and remember the U.S. Colored Troops, who were men of African descent, many of them formerly enslaved, who enlisted in the Union Army to fight for their freedom. This journey is now nearly complete, as the formal unveiling ceremony of the U.S. Colored Troops monument will occur at the Fort Defiance Civil War Park and Interpretive Center on Saturday, June 18, 2022, at 9:00 a.m. Please join us and the Clarksville community as we celebrate this special occasion (see community invitation below). You may RSVP at this link: fb.me/e/3t9kBGYCW or to Tyler Nolting at noltingt@apsu.edu.



Interpretive Panels at U.S. Colored Troops Monument at Fort Defiance

Two interpretive panels will be placed around the U.S. Colored Troops monument at Fort Defiance in order to help tell the history of the U.S. Colored Troops who enlisted in Clarksville.

Below, you see the first panel titled, "From Slave to Soldier: The Struggle to Enlist," and on the next page, the panel is titled, "Clarksville's United States Colored Troops: Fighting for Freedom During the Civil War."

The panels help to provide an accurate historical portrayal of the influence, contributions, bravery, and sacrifice of the U.S. Colored Troops, with additional pertinent information about the impact of the U.S. Colored Troops on the winning of the Civil War and the attainment of the freedom from enslavement.

From Slave to Soldier: The Struggle to Enlist

The First and Second Confiscation Acts authorized the Union Army to put escaped slaves to work, instead of returning them to their enslavers. Contraband camps were established for escaped slaves' families and were protected by the Union Army. They were prime recruitment grounds for USCT regiments. In December 1863, the Union Army began using Fort Defiance as a recruitment station for the 16th USCT. Arriving at the fort to enlist could be full of struggle and peril. Confederate guerrillas set up patrols around Clarksville to prevent enslaved men from getting to the fort.

Elihu Wadswoth: First Lieutenant, Company B, 16th USCT

Recruiting goes on slowly at present at Donelson and Clarksville for the reason that just without our lines the rebels keep up a line of patrols to keep the Negroes from coming in. A party of sixty started and only one got through. Although they are watching so diligently about ten per day get through the lines and enlist ediately. When we get two companies armed, we will break the blockade and the men will come in in swarms. It would do you good to see those ragged men stand up their full height." (Tennessee State Ubrary and Archives)



"William Penn," Philadelphia, PA



ard D. Pryor, an escaped viave from Georgia, joined Company A of the 44th USET, whing his way into Union lines in Tamesease in April of 1884. A photographer captured these images before and after he took on the blue Union uniform.





101st Regimental Headquarters

his journal, officer Henry Campbell of Company G, 101st Regiment, drew the regimental headquarters in 1865. The house was first built by Robert West. Humphries and later became known as the Howard D. Pettus House. The Pettus House was converted for use as a multi-purpose community center and dedicated as the Howard D. Pettus Park on November 15, 1953, which was made possible by the Howard D. Pettus Foundation. The land containing the park was purchased around 1967 by Austin Peay State College, and the building was eventually demolished to make way for the construction of the Winfield Dunn Health and Physical Education Building and Convocation Center (known today as the Dunn Center)

Martin Means of the 101st USC

Martin Means was born a slave in Christian County, KY in 1833 to amuel Means. He married Macie on September 15, 1855.

Martin left for Clarksville, TN and enlisted in Company H of the 101st USCT on July 26, 1864, at age 31. He nustered out on January 24, 1866, in Nashville and returned to Clarksville by

As of 1890, Martin and Macie were living at 1112 Commerce Street

After suffering a stroke on May 5, 1892, he died on June 1, 1892.

He and Macie are buried in historic Mt.

Olive Cemetery, which is Clarksville's largest African American burial grounds, a 7.24 acres. Of the estimated 1,350 internments at Mt. Olive, 30 of these individuals are USCT, one is a Buffalo Soldler, and one is a World War II veteran.

Above right is Martin's headstone at Mt. Olive Cemeter

Private Joseph Farley, 101st USCT

A slave from Kentucky who became part of the 101st USCT. He described his difficult experience of traveling at night to arrive in Clarksville to enlist. He also stated that it was necessary to guard camps of newly freed people to protect them

"I was a slave way back in 1856. They were mighty hard on colored people: They hung two men by the neck right where I was living. Back in those days colored peop couldn't leave their homes without a pass from their master and mistress. You couldn't even go to church; if you did you were caught on the highway by the padderollers and beat up. Back there they bought and sold colored people just like they do horses and mules now. Many husbands, wives, and children were separated then and never met again. They had contraband camps, and men, women, and children had to be guarded to keep the Rebels from carrying them back to the white folks. I lay in the woods all day until night. When I got here then I enlisted in the army."



Clarksville's United States Colored Troops: Fighting for Freedom During the Civil War

Frederick Douglass, a leading abolitionist, played a significant role in getting President Lincoln to allow African Americans to serve as Union Army soldiers. Clarksville men served in nine USCT regiments, with four of these regiments involved in the Battle of Nashville, a major Union victory site, where the war against the South in Tennessee was ended.

Establishment of the USCT

In 1861, Frederick Douglass and other leading abolitionists began putting exceeding amounts of pressure on President Lincoln's Administration to include African Americans in the Union Army.

Thus, the United States War Department established the Bureau of Colored Troops on May 22, 1863. Over 170,000 enslaved men enthusiastically joined the Union to fight for their freedom from chatter slavery.

USCT Regiments in Clarksville

For Defiance was a major enlistment location in Middle Tennessee with approximately 1,500-2,000 enlistments occurring in Clarksville and New Providence.

The nine regiments that included Clarksville men were the following: the 4th and 9th heavy artillery regiments and the 12th, 13th, 14th, 15th, 16th, 59th, and 101st regiments.

Their main duties included guarding contraband camps, building railroads, and ensuring supply lines. The USCT from Clarksville also fought valiantly in the Battle of Nashville, knowing their continued freedom and the freedom of their families were at stake.



ortrait of Frederick Douglass, 11

Frederick Douglass

On April 6, 1863; Frederick Douglass, national leader of the abolitionist movement, notably composed the following about the inclusion of African Americans in the Union Army:

"Once let the black man get upon his person the brass letter, U.S., let him get an eagle on his button, and a musket on his shoulder, and bullets in his pocket, and there is no power on the earth or under the earth which can deny that he has earned the right of citizenship in the United States."



Anonymous USCT Narrative from Clarksville, TN

"I was born in 1842 the oldest one of my mother's children. They wouldn't do nothing but everlasting whito me, my Lord. I fought to free my mammy and her little children all through Nashvilled and Franklin and Columbia, Tennessee. I prayed on the battlefield some of the best prayers I ever prayed in my life. Sometimes it looked like the war was about to cut my ears off. I would lay stretched out on the ground and bullets would fly over my head. I would kee a rock and place it on top of my head, thinking maybe it would keep the bullet from going through my brain. Words of praise were not to the strong or the swift, but to he who held out to the end. I made God some of the finest promises that ever were made."



Battle of Nashville Aftermath

One of the largest Union victories, effectively ending the warin TN. The 13th USCT played a decivive role in writing this buttle, despite suffering catastrophic casualties. At the end of the Battle of Nashville, Union General George H. Thomas, who had once doubted the Black soldiers under his command, sald to his officers as he overlooked fallen USCT and Confederate soldiers lying together, "Gentlemen, the question is settled, negro soldiers will fight."



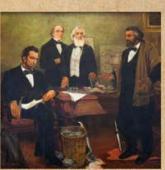
Tintype of Honnah and Adam Wolkin

Adam served during the Civil War in the 16th USCT regiment. Adam escaped enslavement and enlisted in the Union Army.

Adam Watkins Joined the Union Army in Clarksville as Robert Baker on December 7, 1863. Watkins fought in the Battle of Nashville, one of the war's most decisive Union victories. Following the war, he changed his name to "Adam Watkins," and he, his wife Hannah, and their children, lived in Tennessee, but they later relocated to Illinois.



Camp of Colored Battery in Johnsonville, TN



William Edouard Scott's mural of 'Prederick Douglass

In 2865, President Uncoln said, "Without the military help of the black freedmen, the war against the South could not have been won" (National Park Service).

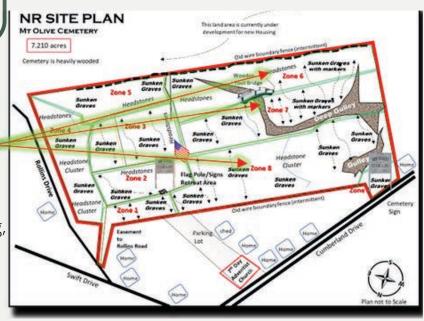
Preservation and Restoration

Written by Mike Taliento, Director of Preservation and Restoration

Maintenance Update

Restoration and preservation work continues weekly at the cemetery. This month focused on our property boundaries on Cumberland Drive, Zones 6, 7, and 8.

Society members, friends, and community partners meet every Tuesday from 3-6 p.m. to perform weekly weed-eating, trail clearing, and general clean-up activities. We encourage Society members to invite youth groups, veteran organizations, and church groups to come out on Tuesdays and participate.



Our main effort included trimming the trees on Cumberland Drive, which has greatly enhanced the visibility to our sign and the cemetery. The flowers beneath the sign on Cumberland Drive were planted during our Spring Cleanup with help from the Wounded Warrior Project Veterans. See the images below.





2022-2023 Cemetery Master Projects List

The Master Projects List for 2022-2023 were presented to the Board during the May meeting. The projects list is grounded to the Society's Mission Statement and is consistent with preserving the cemetery's status on the National Register of Historical Places. Funding for the projects will come through donations, grants, and our annual fundraiser. The Board will further review and prioritize the list at the next meeting. A summary of the projects is below.

MT OLIVE CEMETERY'S PROJECT LIST 2022-2023

All projects are nested within the Society's Mission Statement and consistent with preserving our status on the National Register of Historical Places.

Cemetery Preservation

- Establish conditions to make 1.
 Mt Olive Cemetery a State
 Tree Sanctuary
- Identify, select, purchase and install commemorative grave markers for all unmarked graves
- Establish/prioritize a plan to reset fallen headstones
- Establish/prioritize a plan to repair broken headstones
- Execute plans to back-fill and restore sunken and unmarked graves
- Have cemetery surveyed by UT Extension Office for maintenance and preservation guidance
- 7. Install Perimeter Fencing

Maintenance & Safety

- Purchase Maintenance Equipment:
 2 x Weed Eaters / 2 x Blowers /
 1 x Chainsaw / 1 x pole saw, 4 x
 trash cans, 2 x backpack sprayers
- Purchase: 12 x 14 Storage shed for cemetery maintenance equip
- Establish a waterline/hydrant to the Cemetery's property
- 3. Remove standing dead trees
- 4. Repair Rollins Road
- Install Lighting along Rollins Road near entrances to cemetery
- 6. Purchase GPR equipment
- Continue selective cutting and raise tree canopy
- 8. Continue pathway improvements
- 9. Continue drainage improvements
- 10. Assess insect mitigation options
- 11. Assess weed mitigation options
- 12. Sustain weekly maintenance efforts

Education & Engagement

- 1. Sustain PARTNERSHIPS
- 2. Install Park Benches (14)
- Install 6 Interpretive Panels /Map Boards with QR codes
- Install Road Signs on Pathways
- Partner with City to create a Park with a pavilion with play elements to encourage exercise/engagement within the NRHP/cemetery grounds
- Conduct semi-annual headstone cleaning seminars
- Install Walking Trail mileage markers/map
- Partner with universities to perform Ground Penetrating Radar Survey (with GPS)



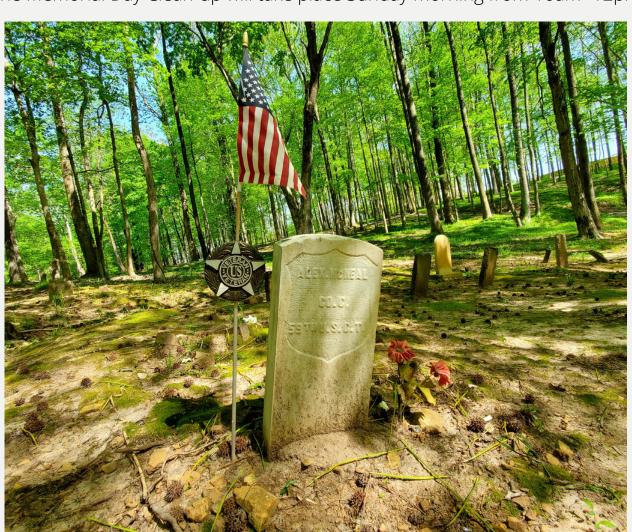
Memorial Day Cleanup and Ceremony

The Society will host a Memorial Day Ceremony at 1330 hrs. 29 May 2022 at the cemetery. The Wounded Warrior Project and the Women's Veterans of America (WVA) Chapter 47 will also participate. The WVA has again generously donated the flags for Veterans' graves. Thank you Ladies!

Memorial Day Ceremony Program

- Welcoming Remarks President Nick Nicholson
- Invocation Spiritual Advisor Larry Wells
- National Anthem Nettie Thomas
- Reflections on Memorial Day Dir of Education & Engagement Tyler Nolting
- Roll Call Historian Phyllis Smith
- Taps
- Placement of the Flags All participants
- Special Music Performed by Tyler Nolting

The Memorial Day Clean-up will take place Sunday morning from 10am -12pm



Establishing Mt Olive Cemetery as a State Tree Sanctuary

The Society is exploring the possibility of designating the cemetery as a State Tree Sanctuary. The certification process requires identifying at least 10 tree species on the property and submitting pictures and a map of the trees with their common and scientific names. We will be working with the Tennessee Urban Forestry Council over the summer to determine the feasibility and apply as soon as







Looking Ahead



- June-July-August: Weekly cleanup
- August: Headstone cleaning seminar
- September: Wounded Warrior
 Project fall cleanup
- October: CMCSS JROTC fall cleanup
- November: APSU fall cleanup

African American Legacy Trail

Written by Terry Morris,

Director of the African American Legacy Trail

New Brochure Coming Soon

The Clarksville/Montgomery County African
American Legacy Trail brochure is continuing to
undergo a total redesign with the Academy of
Media Arts and Technology students at
Rossview High School. Currently, they have
wrapped up their progress for the school year
and will begin the work once again in August.
The estimated completion date will be May of
2023!

Engage on Social Media

The <u>Visit Clarksville TN website</u> and mobile app continue to be great tools and destinations for anyone interested in experiencing the Trail and following along with the interactive mapping system.

For access to the mobile app, first, download the Visit Clarksville TN mobile app from the <u>Apple Store</u> or <u>Google Play</u>. Next, open the app and choose the trails icon and select the African American Legacy Trail, and then check in at the required number of places.

Once you have done this, you will earn a Challenge Badge and will receive an email notification on how to obtain your badge! Take a photo of yourself at a trail stop and tag #clarksvilletrailchallenge on Instagram or Twitter to earn a bonus pin (one per person). Below, are images of some of the pins.





Trail Location to be Featured in Second and Commerce

The Customs House Museum and Cultural Center's magazine, Second and Commerce, will feature an article which highlights the 100-year anniversary of the Warfield School, now known as the South Guthrie Community Center. The school is one of the locations on the African American Legacy Trail. Look for it in the upcoming July issue. Below is a picture of the Center as it appears today.



If you would like to donate to the printing costs and ensure that this wonderful piece of literature continues to remain in print and grow, please visit the Mt. Olive Cemetery Historical Preservation Society's website for information on how to do so.

Most importantly, thank you for all of our community support on this project and Mount Olive's mission as a whole. Happy



Above, Jerome Parchman, historian for the African American Legacy Trail, walks through one the Trail's locations, Golden Hill Cemetery.

Other Info

Mt Olive Website and Facebook Page

To stay up-to-date on all things related to the Society, please visit our <u>website</u> and our <u>Facebook page</u>.

Interested in Contributing to our Organization?

The Society has ambitious objectives this year, and any 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, TN area.

As of 2022, the Society is one of the more than 2,000 nonprofit organizations with a profile on GivingMatters.com, a comprehensive database providing information on nonprofits in Middle Tennessee.

In order to contribute to the Society through GivingMatters.com, please use the following link: https://givingmatters.civicore.com/mtolivechps.



Inaugural Newsletter Dedication

Genevia Ann Bell

This inaugural issue of Mt
Olive Cemetery Historical
Preservation Society Newsletter
is dedicated to the memory
of the founder of the Society,
Genevia Ann Bell, who
formed the Society in 2004.
May her memory be a
blessing and her legacy be
that of justice, compassion,
and love.





