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401 Morgan Avenue, Harriman



Newsletter

July 2021

Custodians of the Past. Stewards for the Future



Living Historically in the 2020s

There are moments in our lives, and indeed in history, that are benchmarked as “before” and “after.” On a personal level, typical benchmarks are graduation, marriage, or birthdates. On a local, national or global level, there are days “that will live in infamy.” When I was working FEMA Disaster Recovery in Louisiana, people knew what event defined before and after “the storm.” It was Hurricane Katrina on August 29, 2005, and to locals it almost became synonymous with “BC” and “AD.”

While this month’s feature on the decade of 2020 is intended to paint a picture of the future, it is not intended to offer predictions. As mentioned in last month’s article, results seldom provide the expectations exactly as predicted. My hunch is however that my expectations will be exceeded, and to predict now would be far short of reality.

There isn’t an exact date, but 2020 has become a defining moment in history that will live in infamy. It is known for short as “COVID-19” – as if I have to remind you – and everyone has a story of “before,” and in this case, “during.” The “after” is still to be written.

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Fall Will Be Here Before You Know It!



Yep, we’re already preparing for the Hauntings of historic Harriman on October 15th & 16th and CHRISTMAS TOUR OF HOMES on December 11th & 12th.

Hauntings Tour Chairs Aaron & Beth Johnson are asking you to contact them to volunteer for Hauntings Tours by calling (865) 382-9647 for Beth or (865) 387-1201 for Aaron. Christmas Tour Chair Donna Demyanovich can be reached at 865-466-2932 to volunteer and if you’re considering your home on tour. Please contact any of them directly or email

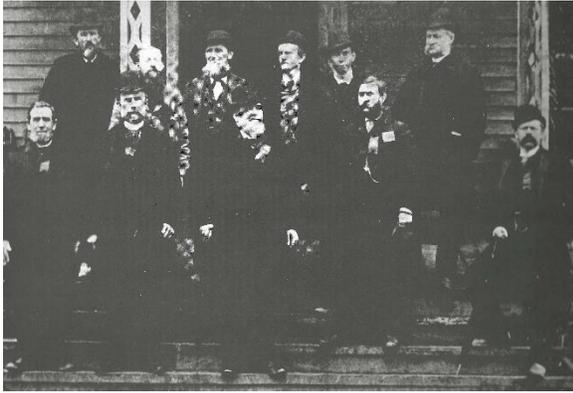


cornstalk_heights@yahoo.com if you would like to volunteer for either of the these tours in any way, or are considering placing your home on tour. We’re all looking forward to it!



Living Historically in the 2020s

We began our series on Harriman's History in the March 2020 CHHCO Newsletter with the statement "we are now living as history in a historic community." That premise started with investigating what it was like living in Harriman during the Spanish Flu of 1918, versus living during the Covid Pandemic of 2020. However, the more I studied and reflected, we are always living history in a historic community. We've heard and read the names of residents and people of influence in the past that may have even lived in our homes. We are now the residents, and we now have the opportunity to be the people of influence to those in the future.



1890 East Tennessee Land Company Board of Directors

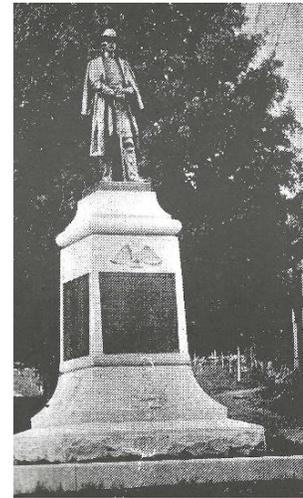
We learned in Harriman's history that a line of prominent individuals known nationally, and some internationally, influenced the founding of the City of Harriman. As noted by Walter Pulliam in his "Blue Book" **Harriman: The Town that Temperance Built**, the East Tennessee Land Company Board of Directors "included a Prohibition candidate for President [Fisk], a former Postmaster-General [James], the nation's "Oatmeal King" [Schumacher], dictionary publishers [Funk & Wagnalls], two textile scions [Hopewell & Goodall], and the owner later on of the Boston Braves [Russell]." And to note, they weren't from around here until they were from here (following the land auction of 1890).

Frederick Gates is attributed with envisioning the City of Temperance where "Temperance and Prohibition could be commercialized to the betterment of mankind and to business profit." Gates providentially left the Methodist ministry

because of a throat ailment and at one time was a Manager of the Diamond Match Company. Have you heard sermons preached about life's adversities create opportunities? He lived it.

But more notably of course is Walter C. Harriman, who was a Director of the East Tennessee Land Company and thus one of its founders. Walter's father Colonel [later General] Walter Harriman camped in the area during the Civil War and frequently visited a crippled boy at the Margrave house when the northern troops came to the river for water. It was because of Colonel Harriman's kindness to a cripple that the City was destined to be call **Harriman**. That crippled individual, quite elderly when he was visited in 1890 by directors of the East Tennessee Land Company, remembered Colonel Harriman by name, and relayed to his visitors that Colonel Harriman once said this would make a fine place for a town. Well then, Harriman it was!

Harriman is actually named in honor of General Harriman (also 2 time Governor of New Hampshire), father of Land Company Director Walter C. Harriman. Then a Colonel in the Civil War, Harriman visited a crippled boy at the Margrave House and shared this would be a fine place for a town. This statue honors General Harriman in his home town of Warner, New Hampshire



The Founding Fathers were the right people with resources and skillsets necessary to establish a new city. In addition to them, Preachers came and established new congregations. A new city required a new Charter, and a new government from new residents was formed. A census recorded that the city grew from one farm house on January 1, 1890 to 3,672 "souls in a beautiful and prosperous city" as of January 1, 1892 (City Directory of Harriman, Tenn Volume I, 1892. G. M. Connelly Publisher, Chattanooga, Tenn.) At each step of the way, people with the right resources and skillsets added to each chapter of Harriman's history.



In this photo are unidentified leaders in Harriman

Through the following decades until now, prominent individuals established new business, education and cultural opportunities, many of them starting from scratch. Several of these visionaries are recognized in Pulliam's "Blue Book" ***Harriman: The Town that Temperance Built***, and several more have brought leadership in the half-century since that 1965 publication. For me to try to acknowledge all these leaders here would regrettably overlook lots of those deserving recognition, plus add another page to this Newsletter. I will therefore leave it to your mind's eye to reflect on who they are or who they were, based on whom you have met in person or in print.



Though unidentified, there are present & future leaders in Harriman in this photo too. Each one of us has the opportunity to be a leader in our circle of influence

Now is our time; now is our turn. We've learned of the past, we've lived in the past, and we now create history in the present. ***We are tomorrow's history.*** It is now our time to live in a way in which we will be remembered for what we have contributed. I observed a recent Harriman City Council budget workshop where Mayor Best expressed that the future of Harriman depends on those currently serving the City. Spot on, he noted "Now is your time." But the future is not

left to just the elected officials and those employed by the City. Each one of us leaves footprints that will be remembered for what we do and what we have left behind. Those that rise to leadership roles are driven by motivation, attitude, passion, and/or priority to make things happen. Many of our constituents are already invested in Harriman's future through volunteerism, business and property ventures, thereby becoming names that Harriman's history will recognize in the future for their contribution. Are you one of them?



Last year we shared that Harriman submitted a video entry into HGTV's special "Hometown Takeover." The small town of Wetumpka, Alabama was chosen from over 2,600 American towns, and if you caught the six episodes on HGTV, I believe you would agree this community of less than 8,000 residents was more deserving of a HGTV Takeover than ours. As part of the back-story, a glimmer of optimism in Wetumpka came a few years back with a plan to revitalize, but the endeavor was set back when a tornado struck the town, decimating the police station, a historic church, a number of homes and hundreds of acres of land. In Hometown Takeover, each episode featured two renovations - privately owned historic homes, businesses, public spaces, and even an entire 1 block long downtown street! HGTV performed 12 "miracles" in a community roughly the size of Harriman, with the stated goal that the impact will ripple through the community for generations to come. However, the last episode stated the obvious - though the obvious is often ignored - that the Takeover could only do so much, and the rest is up to the community. It put the community back on their feet, but now it's the residents of Wetumpka's turn to "Take over." They have renewed reason for optimism, but their long term success is now back in the hands of their local residents.

CHCO has established a vision statement of *Custodians of the Past and Stewards for the Future*. Likely you've heard faith-based groups and other non-profit organizations promote "Leaving a Legacy" in the form of a financial gift so your legacy goes on. I certainly support this concept, but more simply put, what has more direct impact, even to you? – the actions & donations you personally contribute, or the dollars your Last Will and Testament contribute? I certainly don't want to discount the value of Legacy Gifts, as we of course also need donors in order to complete our Harriman Hall renovations! That's why we will recognize and honor everyone's financial gifts on permanent plaques, but we will also recognize those that gave time to the project. What really creates a legacy is what you contribute "where you are planted." Small seeds can create large plants, which in turn produce more seeds!

I do honestly believe the decade of 2020 will be the best Harriman has ever experienced in its 130 year life. Unlike Harriman's early years which faced challenges of economic downturns, flu pandemic and floods, Harriman is surviving COVID with a strong determination to thrive, and has landed on solid financial footing. Harriman has numerous growth opportunities on the horizon including many expected to be



announced shortly. And the decade is just beginning! The Historic Community is active and interested in preserving the past for the future. The City of Harriman's image is stronger than ever as exhibited by the festive downtown decorations (Thanks Mayor Wayne & Mrs. Mayor Tammy!), more activities such as the annual Trunk or Treat (Thanks City & HUB!) and the new Splash Pad open to the public (Thanks, Charlie Jones!). The City also strives to keep an

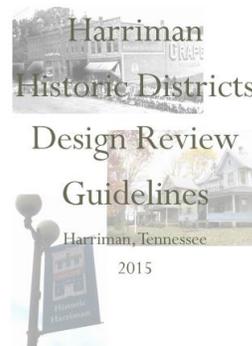
environment that is esthetically attractive to residents and visitors alike (Thanks Jimmy Emile!), and cultural influences are back in the community (Thanks Donnie & Martha!).



In short, Harriman has and is living with a vision. Without a Vision the People will Perish (Proverbs 29:18). Conversely, as the community thrives, so do its inhabitants. We encourage everyone to be a part of making Harriman thrive by leaving legacy footprints in history, and we look forward to what can be accomplished when everyone works together for the common good.

Bruce Knobloch
President, CHCO

Harriman's Historic Design Guidelines to be Next Newsletter Series



Next month we will begin a series regarding Harriman's Historic Zoning and Historic Districts Design Review Guidelines. The value of having design guidelines will be discussed, with topics ranging from historical fencing,

windows, siding, etc. Should you be considering improvements and want information regarding design choices, please let us know by emailing cornstalk_heights@yahoo.com. We can make it a Newsletter topic. You can also obtain your own copy of the Historic Design Guidelines online at [Harriman Historic Design Guidelines effective 2015.pdf](http://Harriman_Historic_Design_Guidelines_effective_2015.pdf) (cityofharriman.net). Remember, Applications for Certificate of Appropriateness (COA) are to be submitted prior to beginning work, and all efforts will be made to schedule the Historic Zoning Commission review as quickly as possible to allow you to proceed with your renovations.

Historic Harriman Hall Renovation Work Day 9 AM – 1 PM August 28th

Though turnout was light for July's workday, it was nevertheless very productive. Interior clean-out of the lower level (with debris dumping courtesy Emory Site Solutions) was also a discovery time for water damage needing repairs. In addition, we're getting ready to "button up" the corner near the sanctuary entrance and begin framing the new porch roof structure.

By the way, did you see the Roane County News Wednesday July 28th edition? Reporter/Photographer Shea James also came out to the



workday to capture the progress and history of this project. Let's plan to invite him back quarterly to photo-journal what our organization can accomplish! Let's have a great turnout on the next workday, August 28th, to work on windows and get paint on the exterior.

Historic Harriman Hall Fundraising

We've got momentum now, but more funds are needed for contract work on high places and to renovate important elements such as the entrance tower. You will be seeing more dramatic progress on exterior work during these next few months, but also interior work will begin which you won't see from the street but we will share in this Newsletter.

Please consider giving to what matters most to you – the exterior renovation, interior improvements, or where there is the most need. We also encourage you to consider sponsoring the renovation of a sanctuary window at the donation level of \$1,500. The windows will have special nameplates to honor or memorialize of

the donor's choosing. Would you please consider responding with your pledge, one time gift, or designated gift now? **We do need your help!**

All donors contributing towards the cost of renovation and equipment will be recognized according to their cumulative level of giving noted below, on a permanent plaque to be placed at the completion of renovations.

Donation Levels	Cumulative Level of Donations
Preservation Leader	\$25,000 or Greater
Preservation Guardian	\$10,000 - \$24,999
Preservation Steward	\$5,000 - \$9,999
Sustaining Donor	\$1,000 - \$4,999
Supporting Donor	\$500 - \$999
Contributing Donor	\$100 - \$499

All donations go directly to the renovation of Harriman Hall, and are not used for any of the organization's operating expenses.

Cornstalk Heights Historical Community Organization is a 501(c)(3) organization, and donations are therefore eligible as a tax-deductible charitable contribution to the full extent of the law.

Donations can be sent to:
CHCO
401 Morgan Ave
Harriman, TN 37748



CHHCO Community Calendar

August 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4 11-2 Lunchtime Food Truck @ old Hosp Parking	5	6 7:00 Un-Happy Days (Murder Mystery) The Walden <i>SOLD OUT</i>	7 7:00 Un-Happy Days (Murder Mystery) The Walden <i>SOLD OUT</i>
8	9	10	11 11-2 Lunchtime Food Truck @ old Hosp Parking	12	13 7:00 The Tams @ Princess Theatre 5-8 Merchant's Friday Nights on Roane	14
15	16	17	18 11-2 Lunchtime Food Truck @ old Hosp Parking	19 7:00 CHHCO Board Meeting 503 Roane, Visitors Welcome	20	21
22	23	24	25 11-2 Lunchtime Food Truck @ old Hosp Parking	26	27 7:00 Sarah and the Secret of the Cellar @ Princess Theatre	28 9 - 1 Harriman Hall Workday 2:00 & 7:00 Sarah and the Secret of the Cellar @ Princess Theatre
29	30	31				

Coming Up Next Month:

September 6 Hooray for Harriman Street Festival

September 19 CHHCO Picnic