

MT OLIVE CEMETERY HISTORICAL PRESERVATION SOCIETY NEWSLETTE

Dec. 2022

Vol 1 Issue 4

Society News

PRESIDENT'S PEN

Written by Nick Nicholson, President

Happy New Year everyone!!!. This Newsletter is our final quarterly addition of 2022, and it was a fantastic year for the Society by all accounts. Yes, we are a bit late getting this one out since December is such a busy month for the Organization, but I assure you that this Newsletter is packed with great information about our past accomplishments of 2022, and things that we want to accomplish in 2023.

Right up front, I want to thank each of our board members (which I call the Committed Few) for their dedication and hard work to make all things possible. Some are Charter members of the Society and have stayed the course to see the organization flourish and accomplish from its meager beginnings. Welcome to our newest board members, Mr. David Davenport, and Mr. Delton Wells. We are excited to have you on board.

As I mentioned in the last Newsletter, we have developed relationships with individuals and organizations around the Clarksville/Tennessee area that have helped the Society meet and exceed its goals in 2022. There are too many to mention here, but I would like to give honorable mention to just a few: Montgomery County Government, City of Clarksville Government, 7th Day Adventist Ephesus Church, Ft Definance Civil War Park & Interpretive Center, Clarksville's Arts and Heritage Council, Nashville Predators Foundation, Mr. James Sumrell, our #1 volunteer of the year, Mr. Tony Perry and the Wounded Warrior Project, Women Veterans of America Chapter 47, APSU, Sunrise Rotary Club of Clarksville, and CMCSS High School JROTC Program.



WHAT'S IN THIS NEWSLETTER

- President's Pen
- Remembrance of the Month
- Preservation and Restoration Update
- Education and Engagement Update
- African American Legacy Trail Update
- Other Info

There are many other organizations and individuals that we thank for making the year 2022 our most successful year since the Society was established in 2005.

Also, our major project of 2022, the USCT Monument, would not have been possible without the major donations of: Montgomery County Public Arts Committee, The LPCE Nicholson Leadership Foundation, Ms. Phyllis Smith, Clarksville Arts & Heritage Development Council, The Taliento Family, and North Central Institute.

Additionally, we thank all who have visited our website or Facebook page and made donations to help us achieve our mission. Your contributions are sincerely appreciated.

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.

This Newsletter would be complete without again saying thanks to our committed few in the Society who do some unbelievable work to get things accomplished. Thank you all!!! -Nick



Remembrance of the Month

Written by Phyllis Smith, Historian

Kate and Dorsey Thompson

About 1875, Alford and Ann Williams were blessed with their second daughter and eighth child who was named Kate. By 1880, the family had grown to six boys and three girls. Sometime between 1880 and 1900, all the men in the family had died. Ann and her three girls were living at 9 Kessee Alley. Ann was a laundress, as was Eddie, aged 22. Kate, aged 26, was working as a cook, and Maggie, aged 28, worked as a hotel servant.

Kate married Dorsey Thompson on July 5, 1906. Dorsey was born in Louisiana in 1866 and worked as a painter. Kate was a housewife except for a brief period in 1920 when she took in washing. They lived on Kessee Alley until about 1929. In 1915, their only son George K. Thompson was born. The 1929 Clarksville City Directory listed them living at Klein's Alley. The 1930 Montgomery County census listed their address as 32 Klein's Alley. George was 16 years old and attending school.

On April 9, 1936, Kate and Dorsey both wrote their wills. They left everything to their son George and Annie Larkins. Both wills mentioned their home place as being lot #10 in the Williams Addition in Ward Three and directed that it could not be mortgaged or sold without the consent of Kate's sister Maggie Gatlin who lived in Dover.

Kate died of complication from diabetes on September 24th, 1936 in Dover probably while visiting her sister. She was buried in Mt. Olive Cemetery by Nace Dixon's company on September 27th.



Dorsey lived another nine months. He died of Mitral Stenoses (a narrowing of the mitral valve opening that blocks blood flow from the left atrium of the heart to the left ventricle) resulting from chronic Nephritis (inflammation of the kidneys) on June 24th, 1937 and was buried in Mt. Olive Cemetery by Nace Dixon's company on June 27th.

In 2020, Kate's gravestone was discovered during a cemetery clean-up. Dorsey's gravestone has yet to be found.

Bibliography

Clarksville, Tennessee City Directory (1911, 1922, 1929),

Montgomery County, Tennessee Census (1880, 1900, 1920, 1930).

Will Books: Author: Tennessee County Court (Montgomery County); Probate Place: *Montgomery, Tennessee. Will Books, Vol U, 1914-1939.*

Preservation and Restoration Update

Written by Mike Taliento, Director of Preservation and Restoration

General Update

Over the winter months the Society suspends our restoration and preservation work. However, Society members, friends and community partners will begin joining forces to conduct our weekly clean-up sessions starting 21 March 2023. Our work efforts will focus on weed-eating, trail clearing and general clean-up activities. We encourage Society members and friends to invite youth groups, fraternal and veteran organizations to come out on Tuesdays and participate. Tools, supplies and PPE will be provided.

2023 Scheduled Restoration and Preservation Projects (January-March)

- Installation of 6 new Park Benches**
- Installation of 3 Interpretive Panels**
- Installation of 7 Street Signposts**
- Installation of Memorial Headstone**

2022-23 Cemetery Master Projects List: The Master Projects List for 2022-23 continues to drive our planning and preservation efforts. 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. A summary of our recent activities and projects is found below.

PRESERVATION & RESTORATION UPDATE

➤ 2022-23 Master Projects Plans – Update Jan 2023

- ✓ Bronze Plaque for Ft Defiance: **In Production** (as of 3 Jan) – Still requires Post Fabrication
- ✓ Memorial Headstone – **Fabrication underway** (as of 3 Jan)–(Ready for Memorial Day Unveiling)
- ✓ Benches – **Delivered/Assembled** – Installation Jan-Feb weather dependent
- ✓ Road Signs: **7 Posts and 14 Signs On Order** – ETA Feb 2023
- ✓ TN State Tree Sanctuary Update – **Application Approved Dec 2022**
- ✓ 3 Interpretive Panels – **Frames/Panels delivered** - Installation Jan-Feb weather dependent
 - Panel Unveiling Ceremony Memorial Day 2023

➤ AARP Grant Funds major Equipment Purchase for Society

- ✓ **December 2022 Grant funded Commercial Blowers, Pruning Equipment, Echo Weed Eater, Headstone Restoration equipment, Safety/PPE Equipment, and Cemetery Sign Lighting and Interpretive Panel installation supplies. Thank you AARP!**



MT OLIVE CEMETERY HISTORICAL PRESERVATION SOCIETY

Preservation and Restoration Update

The Tennessee Urban Forestry Council officially designates Mt Olive Cemetery as a State Tree Sanctuary!

The Society conducted a Tree Inventory at the cemetery with the University of Tennessee's AG Extension Office. The certification process required us to identify at least 10 tree species on the property and to submit pictures and a map of the trees with their common and scientific names. Currently the Society identified 17 species, and certainly have even more that may allow us to obtain an arboretum status sometime in the future. In December 2022, State officials notified the Society that the Tree Sanctuary designation was approved. A formal ceremony will be held on 29 May 2023 to officially recognize the Sanctuary.

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

Restoration and Preservation - Looking Ahead

JAN-FEB:

- Installation of 6 new Park Benches
- Installation of 3 Interpretive Panels
- Installation of 7 Street Signposts
- Installation of Memorial Headstone

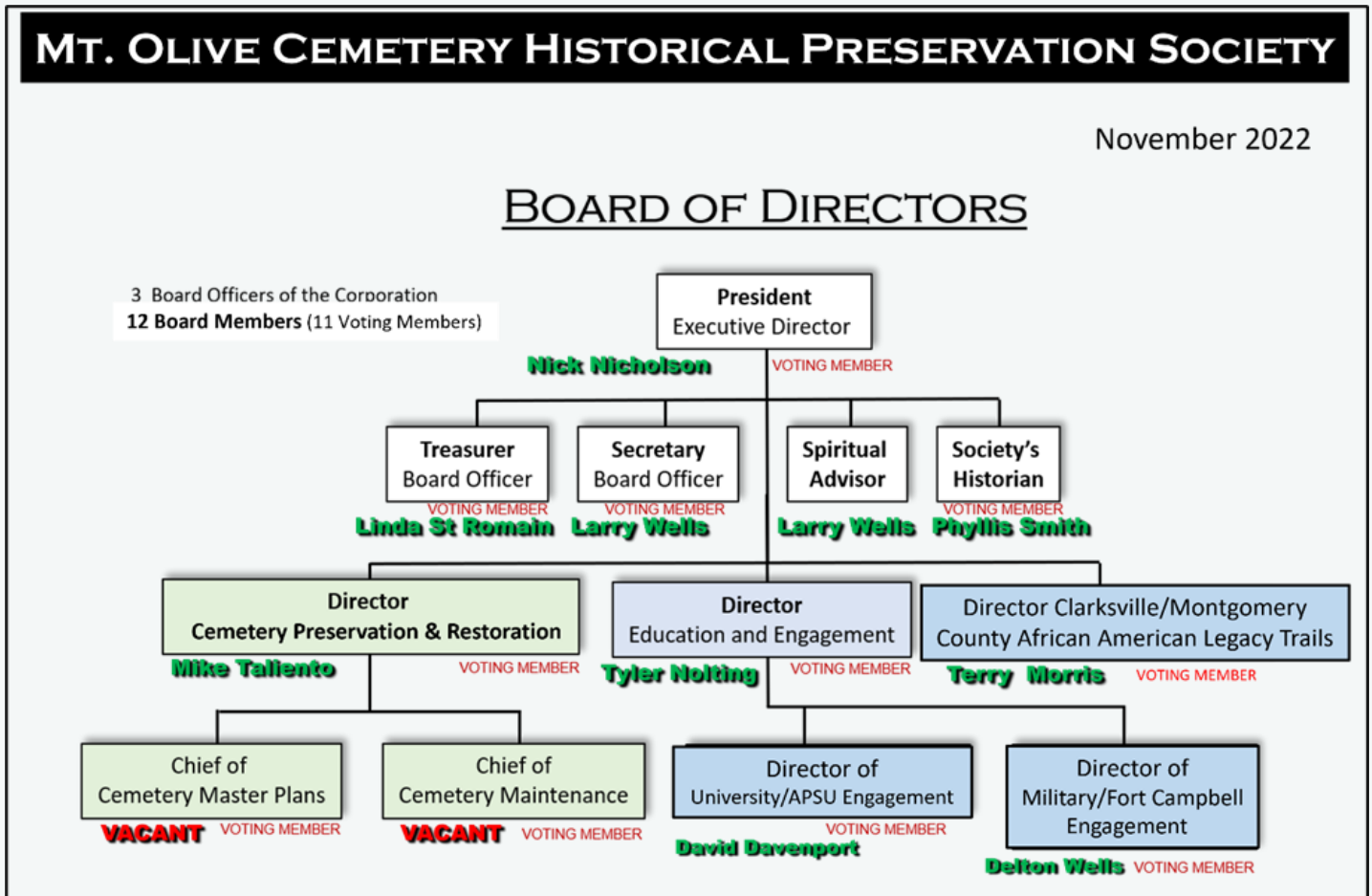
21 March 2023: Weekly Cleanup Begins at 3:30pm

24-25 March: The Great American Clean-up at Mt Olive Cemetery

Preservation and Restoration Update

MOCHPS elects two new Board Members.

Mr. David Davenport and Sergeant Delton Wells have both been elected to serve on the Society's Board. Both gentlemen have been active with the Society and will serve in newly created positions that will enhance the Society's engagement with APSU and FT Campbell, Kentucky.



Education and Engagement Update

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

General Update

The Society finished up 2022 on a very successful and positive note. The CMCSS JROTC provided a large cemetery cleanup in October; Veterans Day and Wreaths Across America Day ceremonies were held in November and December, respectively; and our annual gift-wrapping fundraiser took place from December 16-24 at Governor's Square Mall. All of the events helped to further preserve and restore the cemetery, remember and honor the Veterans interred, and to provide a service to the community while educating and engaging others about our organization and mission.

The Society also received two grants in December, one being a Discretionary Grant from the Grateful Daniel Fund of The Community Foundation of Middle Tennessee, and the other an Altra Federal Credit Union Community Assistance Award. The Discretionary Grant will be utilized to fund our Trails Signs Project, and the Altra Grant will fund memorial grave markers for many of those interred without a headstone.

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

On January 5, 2023, the Society will conduct a cemetery tour for Clarksville Academy and Mr. Scott Murray's winterim class of high school students. The tour will focus on the health experiences of various individuals interred in the cemetery, as well as the lives and experiences of other notable individuals and groups. In February, the Society will hold a Black History Month presentation, with the date, time, and location to be determined. Additionally, a cemetery tour and headstone cleaning event will be held in March for Austin Peay State University students taking HHP 3450: Health Issues of Special Populations.

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

MT OLIVE CEMETERY HISTORICAL PRESERVATION SOCIETY

2023 Needs



Memorial Day

Printing Costs for Ceremony Programs



Veterans Day



Wrestling Across America



Flower Planting Supplies



Fundraising Supplies



Headstone Cleaning Supplies



Printing for African American Legacy Trail Brochures



Historical Interpretive Panels



Commercial Waste Receptacles



Grave Markers



Operating Costs



Commercial Waste Receptacles

Education and Engagement Update

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

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



The image shows a screenshot of the website for the Mt Olive Cemetery Historical Preservation Society. The header features the organization's name in white text on a dark background. Below the header is a navigation menu with links for HOME, NEWSLETTER, MASTER PLAN PROJECTS, EDUCATION AND ENGAGEMENT, RECORDS AND ARCHIVES, and MORE... A central banner promotes GivingMatters.com with the text "Learn more about our organization or make a donation. INFORMED GIVING STARTS AT GIVING matters.com". Below the banner is a photograph of the cemetery entrance, showing a white sign that reads "MOUNT OLIVE CEMETERY" and two metal benches. The background is a wooded area with fallen leaves. At the bottom of the page, the text reads "Mt Olive Cemetery Historical Preservation Society", "CLARKSVILLE, TENNESSEE", and "Preserving our Nation's History for Future Generations".

MT OLIVE CEMETERY HISTORICAL PRESERVATION SOCIETY

HOME NEWSLETTER MASTER PLAN PROJECTS EDUCATION AND ENGAGEMENT RECORDS AND ARCHIVES MORE...

Learn more about our organization or make a donation
INFORMED GIVING STARTS AT
GIVING
matters.com
an initiative of The Community Foundation of Middle Tennessee

MOUNT OLIVE CEMETERY

Mt Olive Cemetery Historical Preservation Society
CLARKSVILLE, TENNESSEE
Preserving our Nation's History for Future Generations

Other Info

Mt Olive Website and Facebook Page

To stay up-to-date on all things related to the Society, please visit our [website](#) and our [Facebook](#) page.

