

McCoy Farm & Gardens NEWSLETTER

Main entrance: 1604 Taft Highway • Front gate: 1715 Anderson Pike • Mailing address: P.O. Box 443, Signal Mountain, TN 37377 • Website: www.mccoywalden.org

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August 2018

Little Brown Church Picnic

On Sunday, August 5th, the Little Brown Church summer pot-luck picnic will be held at McCoy Farm & Gardens at 12 noon. Everyone is welcome to attend and bring a dish to share. For details, please contact Susan Snow SusanSnow@laurel-point.net or 886-5647.

Precious Items are Gifts

When the Town of Walden acquired the McCoy property, the house had been cleared of furniture, and the rooms reflected the forlorn emptiness of the family home. Though the Town replaced the roof, painted the house, and installed climate control and security systems, the house still needed much more attention and some loving care.

Mayor Trohanis asked Anne Leonard to be on a McCoy House Committee before there was an official McCoy Farm & Gardens Board of Directors. Gene Adams, Linda Davenport, Clare Hetzler, Susan Jensen and Mary Beth McClure soon joined her. Their main job was to coordinate kitchen and bathroom redesigns and approve the furnishings. They also set to work cleaning and refurbishing the interior.

There were many, many steps along the way dealing with the physical conditions of plumbing, wiring, walls and floors. But the joyous part of their work came when they began to receive gifts from those with a connection to the house and Bachman-McCoy family.

Offered early on were the 1914 law books of Judge Bachman. Mrs. Hyde had stored the books in her home in East Ridge since the death of her husband, Bachman's last law



Judge and Senator Nathan Bachman's law books on display in the library area are a gift from Mrs. Hyde.

partner. When she saw an article in the *Chattanooga Regional Historical Journal*, she called the editor, LaVonne Jolley, who picked up the books and returned them to the house.

Amy Hoover Frierson saw in the paper that the McCoy property was being readied for the first Memorial Day picnic. She called Susan



Judge and Senator Nathan Bachman's desk, now in the sunroom, is a gift from Mrs. William L. Frierson.

Snow and said she had a desk that had belonged to Martha, and she wanted to return it.

While Bob Franklin and Mickey Robbins loaded the desk into a truck, Anne Leonard talked with Amy and learned that when

continued on page 2

The Mission of McCoy Farm & Gardens is to restore, enhance and preserve the historic McCoy homeplace so that it may serve the community as an arboretum, natural area, and venue for public and private events.

continued from page 1

Amy and Bill were newly married, their house burned. Martha McCoy heard about it and called Amy to say she had something for her. When Amy came to the mountain, Martha gave her the desk and told her that it had belonged to her father, Nathan Bachman.

In a recent phone interview, Amy Frierson said, "The desk is now where it belongs." She had given it to the Town of Walden, and when McCoy Farm & Gardens became a 501(c)3 corporation, the Town gave it to the nonprofit.

We appreciate both kind gifts very much.

If you have a story or an item that relates directly to the Bachman-McCoy family, we would like to hear about it. Karen Stone is archiving papers and photographs and collecting oral histories related to the family. Contact her at karenstone@waldenhouse.com

Highlight on Restoration

When the old blacksmith shop at the McCoy Farm & Gardens was rebuilt on the original site by the Signal Mountain Lions Club, the original chimney and forge were preserved. We were able to save a few tools from the original shop and have received some donations of equip-



Dilapidated shop in October 2014. Photo by Karen Stone.



Paul Jensen and Rev. Caleb Pitkin at the blacksmith's forge on Memorial Day, 2018. Photo by Hayden Gonzales.



Shop showing "tools" October 2014. Photo by Karen Stone.

ment such as an anvil and vise. We would like to exhibit more old tools from the early 1900's period that would typically be found in a farm/blacksmith shop. If you have tools you would like to donate, please contact Paul Jensen 886-2889 or jensbrow@epbfi.com

Upcoming Events

- Little Brown Church picnic August 5
- Private event August 11
- Private event August 25

To schedule your special event at McCoy Farm & Gardens, visit

www.mccoywalden.org

Hours, Access & Information

The 1.1 mile long walking and running trail is open during daylight hours, seven days per week. Access the trail at the 1604 Taft Highway entrance and park in the first gravel lot located outside the inner gate.

The McCoy grounds are open to the public Saturdays and Sundays, 10:00 am - 5:00 pm. Please enter through the Taft Highway entrance and park in the main gravel lot. A handicapped accessible portable toilet is located at the orchard end of the gravel lot.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:
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COMMITTEE CHAIRS:
Karen Stone, Newsletter

WALDEN OFFICIALS:
Mayor: Bill Trohanis
Aldermen: Lee Davis,
Sarah McKenzie

Support McCoy Farm & Gardens

McCoy Farm & Gardens is a tax-exempt 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation. All contributions are charitable and tax deductible to the maximum extent allowed by law.

The 33 acre parcel, with the Bachman-McCoy home, pavilion, carriage house, barn, blacksmith workshop, apple house, various other structures and gardens, is leased from the Town of Walden. Volunteers are very important to the organization in all areas. Your donations are welcome and will be used to improve the structures and gardens.

Please send your check to:

McCoy Farm & Gardens

P.O. Box 443, Signal Mt., TN 37377

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