

## Cold Springs School Preservation and Maintenance

Highland Rim Historical Society is seeking to preserve and maintain Cold Springs School as the one-room school house that it was originally intended to be.

Cold Springs School, originally located just northeast of Portland, was used as a one-room school house from 1857 to 1933. It was moved to Richland Park in the City of Portland in 1975 to be restored and preserved.

Since the building is not climate controlled and cannot affordably be made so, at least in the foreseeable future, articles of old clothing and some other items that had been stored there through the years had to be moved to the library in recent months for safe-keeping, where they would not further deteriorate. Other items were returned to the original owner, or families of the original owner if they could be determined.

Some restoration work was recently done on the exterior of the building with a new metal roof and coat of red stain – both believed to be true to the original construction. And recent work inside Cold Springs School has enhanced its original look, with members having sorted and retained only the items that are relevant to the school and the time period that it was used. More period items have been recently obtained, and the one-room school appearance has really taken shape.

Although history recorded that Camp Trousdale, a training ground for Confederate soldiers in the early part of the Civil War, was based around the little school, and that the school building was used as a hospital for wounded soldiers during the Civil War, it was also used as a meeting house for the early church of Christ congregation in the area and David Lipscomb preached there. In its more recent history, soldiers-in-training used the terrain surrounding Cold Springs School during World War II maneuvers in upper Sumner County. However, the little building's main use was that of a small country school for the area children through 1933.

It was the original mission of the earliest Highland Rim Historical Society to preserve and maintain the school when it was moved from the original site on the McGlothlin family farm to Richland Park in the early 1970's. And now, it's the intent of HRHS to carry out that same mission statement and restore the school-house atmosphere of the period so that local school children can come in and really *experience* what school would have been like for students of this area from the mid 1850's to the time the school closed in the early 1930's.

In an effort to re-create the atmosphere, a pot-belly stove - true to the time period - was purchased and placed in the center of the room, just as Pat Stovall recalled (audio tape, ca. 1985) it had been placed during his own school days there. More period desks have been acquired; some purchased and some donated. An original school recitation bench, a couple of original old book carriers, old text books, a dunce stool and hat, period toys such as checkers and marbles, a 48-star flag, and photos of the earliest U.S. Presidents are now in place.

HRHS is seeking other items that are true to the school's history or that would have been used in a similar country school during that time period from anyone who would be willing to share them. President Steve Broadway and Historian Nathan Shadowens have done some research and know that some of the old items that would be appropriate are: a coal scuttle (bucket) and shovel for ashes; water bucket and dipper; lunch pail; wooden paddle (kids could be disciplined back then if necessary, you know); rustic shelves; rustic bench; stove piping for the pot belly stove; and period text books.

HRHS would also like to collect photo copies and history of any of your family members or friends who attended Cold Springs School. As well as photos of other one-room schools from the area to re-create that era and share with children and other visitors who may have never seen what was once very common in our country; especially in rural America. So if anyone has such photos, and would be willing to share, we would like to copy them if possible; especially so if you can identify the school and/or the people in the photo.

There is very minimal storage space at Cold Springs School, so items cannot be accepted that are not related to Cold Springs or any other country school, and true to the time period.

Anyone interested in helping with this effort may contact Steve Broadway or Nathan Shadowens.

Members met with Ms Tonya Blades, a Preservation Planner from Greater Nashville Regional Council, to find out if there are grant funds available from the State of Tennessee to help with preservation and/or maintenance of the old school. It seems there's very little likelihood of obtaining any grant funds, because Cold Springs School is not eligible for the National Historic Register, or other such notoriety. But she urged the members to educate the locals and other visitors about the school's story, and its relevance in Portland-area history at every opportunity, as this could elevate the historical importance of the Moye-Green house and old Temple Theater building in downtown Portland and enhance any restoration efforts for those projects.

Cold Springs School is open to the public on Sunday afternoons during the summer months, beginning on June 1 for 2014, so if you have not yet visited this little historical treasure in Richland Park, please come and bring the kids!