



# Farmington

Discover the Benefits of Membership and Other Ways to Support Farmington!  
Looking to Volunteer? Sign Up for the Docent Training in December

Museum Store • Holiday Open House Dec. 2, 2023 • Holiday Raffle

Fall 2023

[www.visitfarmington.org](http://www.visitfarmington.org) • 3033 Bardstown Rd., Louisville, KY 40205

# Letter from the Executive Director



Kathy Nichols, Executive Director

Welcome to Farmington, I appreciate you taking the time to read about our 2023 accomplishments and our plans for 2024, a year that holds opportunity and promise! We hope you will join us often, as we close the year with many fun activities.

In May, a lovely crowd gathered to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the installation of Farmington's Memorial to the Enslaved by artist William M. Duffy. Hannah Drake composed and recited a powerful poem featured in this publication, "The Stone That the Builders Rejected." Descendants of Abram and Rosanna Hays and David and Martha Spencer attended the rededication of the memorial to their ancestors alongside descendants of John and Lucy Speed. The Hayes and Spencer descendants have been very generous in sharing their family histories with Farmington.

Beautiful June gave us the perfect weather to honor Jana Clanton Dowds with the Anne Bruce Haldeman Award at the annual An Evening in the Garden at Farmington. Peter Byck's introduction extolled Jana's lifelong dedication to gardening and Kentucky greenspaces. Mayor Greenberg stopped by to congratulate Jana during cocktails and Leader McConnell sent a warm public letter read during the dinner.

Our fall and winter events are shaping up to be interesting and fun! In November, bring the kids out to Fire in the Field to roast a hot dog and smores around the campfires. We will have hot beverages for everyone and adult beverages for mom, dad, and others who qualify. It's a free event, you can purchase hot dogs, smores kits, snacks and drinks while you're here!

We're excited to announce our inaugural membership drive. You will find the program information on page 6 of this publication. We look forward to welcoming you as the first members of the Farmington Membership program! Members receive a number of benefits including a 10% discount at the Plant Sale in April and in Farmington's new museum store.

Remember to say you're a member when you join us on December 2 for our Holiday Hayride. You can use your discount to purchase great books, s toneware mugs, and other fun gifts before a hay wagon rides you through old Farmington grounds to see the Wellington neighborhood's lovely Christmas lights.

If you're one of the special people who wants to help behind the scenes, please join our volunteer program by writing [kathy@historichomes.org](mailto:kathy@historichomes.org). Farmington has volunteer opportunities for almost everyone who wants to help us move into the future!

*Kathy*

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## DERBY BREAKFAST

Farmington shone bright on Derby Day once again for the annual Historic Homes Foundation Derby Breakfast! A Louisville tradition, the breakfast benefits Farmington, Whitehall, and the Thomas Edison House. It is the perfect place to show off your finery and get in the spirit before heading to the track. Mark your calendars now to join us next year. We would like to extend a special thank-you to all of our sponsors.







## Memorial to the Enslaved at Farmington 20th Anniversary Rededication Ceremony

On May 21, 2023, over two hundred people came together for the 20th Anniversary of the Memorial to the Enslaved at Farmington, created by William M. Duffy. The Memorial is designed to provide a quiet spot to acknowledge the contributions of those enslaved at Farmington and to contemplate slavery and its local and national impact. The crowd was greeted by remarks by Rev. Kevin Cosby, witnessed an interpretative performance by Erma Bush, heard a poem commissioned for the occasion by Hannah Drake, and saw William M. Duffy's concept for phase two of this project.



**Clockwise from Top:** Rev. Kevin Cosby and William M. Duffy; A large gathering watches the program; William M. Duffy unveils his next concept; Elmer Lucille Allen; Erma Bush portraying Diana; Nana Lampton; Poet Hannah Drake; Three artists - Craig Kaviar, William M. Duffy, and Ed Hamilton



## **The Stone That The Builders Rejected**

by Hannah L. Drake

In shadows history weaves a tale  
A chapter that cannot be erased  
Their memories are embedded in the soil  
Among the trees and stalks of hemp  
In the gentle babbling of the creek  
You will find their memories  
Their footprints and fingerprints  
Are like the wind  
Unseen yet felt...still their essence lingers  
Because they were here,  
Even now a soul will always cry out for us to remember  
Do not forget that it was with their hands  
They planted and built and nourished  
With their hands they toiled in the field  
With their hands they performed skilled labor  
They planted apples and corn  
They were shoemakers, butchers, and gardeners  
They were caregivers  
Most importantly they were humans  
Who were stripped of the dignity  
To be called free  
So, we today we remember  
We do not romanticize what has taken place here  
It is here, on this land,  
At least 70 people were enslaved  
Mothers, Fathers, Sisters, Brothers, Children  
All bound, caught together in a web of oppression and  
despair  
Some died without ever tasting the sweetness of freedom  
Only knowing the bitterness of suffering  
In the hemp fields of pain, where freedom eluded them  
Remember their resilience and will to be free  
What is a bird that cannot fly?  
Yet even with broken wings a bird will attempt to take  
flight  
One way or another a soul will always long to soar  
So, we remember  
Remember it is with their hands  
That they built and created  
Out of nothing became something  
Like the sculptor  
Whose hands are an extension of his heart  
Infusing their memories into matter  
Molding and shaping their stories  
Carving their essence into stone  
Bringing their memory to life  
Unveiling untold stories  
In the stone's resistance, their journey unfolds,  
As the sculptor navigates seeking the hidden truth that  
the stone will reveal  
The names, the faces, the stories, the pain, the heartache  
The strength, the faith, the resilience, the hope, the  
longing, the humanity  
Of names known and unknown  
We honor,  
Phillis Thurston, Jinnie, Diana, and Dinnie Thompson  
Grace and Albert

Charles and Frazier  
Johnston, Jacob, and Oz  
Morocco  
We remember the unknown  
Who life did not see worthy enough to record their  
names in history  
But we remember today  
Their memory etched in stone  
They are literally the stone that the builders rejected  
Who have become the capstone,  
The most important because the integrity of the whole  
structure depends on the cornerstone  
The integrity of the entire structure of America  
Depends on how it has treated Black people  
The integrity is in what we choose to remember  
And who we choose to actively forget  
The capstone is the enslaved  
They have built with their hands, this nation  
They are pointing this nation to a day of reckoning,  
reparations, and reconciliation  
They are calling us to make a choice about who we are  
going to be in this moment  
We cannot undo the past  
A baked cake can never be flour and eggs again  
However, in this moment their memory is challenging us  
To do now what we did not do then  
Even in death a soul longs to be free  
Their struggles remain etched upon our souls,  
A reminder of the price for freedom  
Their stories call to us,  
an unending plea that will echo in this city and this  
nation until it is answered  
To remember their anguish,  
and let history be taught and be free  
To all who dwell among this place  
Remember to honor their legacy, with open hearts and minds  
By dismantling prejudice, by walking in love and not hate  
As we remember the darkness of the past, strive to walk into  
the light  
Let us learn from history's somber truth  
And work to heal the wounds and break the chains that still  
remain  
Because until all of us are free, none of us will ever be free

**THANK YOU**  
**to our Sponsors!**



**BROWN-FORMAN**



# Become A Member

## **\$35 Individual Annual Membership**

- Free tours
- 10% discount in the Museum Store
- Farmington Newsletter
- Recognition in all donor listings

## **\$75 Family/Dual Membership**

- Up to 2 Adults and 4 children; additional children added for \$10 each
- All of the benefits of an Individual Membership

# Giving Societies

**Give a Gift Above and Beyond Basic Membership to join on of our giving societies.**

## **\$100 Hemp & Agriculture Society**

Farmington originated as a hemp plantation, the Commonwealth of Kentucky's primary cash crop. Hemp, a baste fiber, was grown by Kentucky farmers to make twine, rope, and rough bags for the cotton trade (so-called "cotton bagging"). In addition to hemp, the farm produced corn, apples, wheat, pork, flax, lamb and mutton, and dairy products. Tobacco was grown intermittently.

- All of the benefits of Membership
- 2 Free Guest Passes

## **\$250 Skidmore Society**

Construction of the Speeds' ambitious brick residence, an outstanding example of Federal-style architecture in frontier Kentucky, began at Farmington in 1815, the design of Paul Skidmore. Skidmore's unusual and ambitious design was clearly influenced by the architectural designs of Thomas Jefferson.

- All of the benefits of Membership
- 4 Free Guest Passes

# of Farmington!

## **\$500 Lincoln Society**

Farmington welcomed future president Abraham Lincoln for three weeks in 1841. His host and closest friend, Joshua Speed, described the visit to the Speed plantation as “...one of the happiest times in Lincoln’s life.” Joshua Speed’s brother, James, later became Attorney General in the Lincoln administration.

- All of the benefits of Membership
- 6 Free Guest Passes
- (1) Farmington Louisville Stoneware Mug

## **\$1,000 Drescher & Bischoff Society**

In 1865, Henry Drescher purchased the Farmington main house and part of the acreage from Peachy Speed Peay. The Drescher family lived at Farmington for 43 years, operating a successful truck and potato farm until 1908 when Henry’s heirs sold the farm to the Bischoff family. The Bischoffs also farmed potatoes and lived at Farmington until the mid-1940s

- All of the benefits of Membership
- 8 Free Guest Passes
- \$25 Plant Sale Gift Certificate
- (2) Farmington Louisville Stoneware Mugs

## **\$1,000 Hays & Spencer Society**

Named for Abram and Rosanna Hays and David and Martha Spencer, all of whom were enslaved at Farmington by Austin & Peachy Peay. Their descendants have been very generous in sharing their family histories with Farmington. Funding donated to this Society will be dedicated to continued research and educational programming on the people once enslaved at Farmington.

- All of the benefits of Membership
- 8 Free Guest Passes
- \$100 Plant Sale Gift Certificate
- (4) Farmington Louisville Stoneware mugs

## **\$5,000 Speed Society**

By 1809, John Speed had purchased the 554 acres that would make up the original Farmington property and the Speed family soon built cabins to inhabit before the main house was built in 1815-16. Three years after the death of her husband, Lucy Fry Speed sold Farmington’s main house and 143 acres to her son-in-law, Austin Peay. Although Peay died in 1848 his wife, Speed daughter Peachy, owned Farmington until the end of the Civil War, giving the family a 56-year tenure on the plantation.

- All of the benefits of the Hayes & Spencer Society
- 1 Free Weekday rental of the pavilion
- Farmington Sampler – which includes Farmington branded bud vase, (4) Louisville Stoneware mugs, a set of stationary, and an ornament

# or A Sponsor!

Includes Annual Sponsorship of Farmington events including, but not limited to, select dinners, the Hemp Harvest Festival, Fire in the Field, the Holiday Open House, and monthly Focus on Farmington programs. Derby Breakfast sponsorship can be added to any package for \$3,500.

## **\$5,000 Bronze Sponsorship**

- One table of eight at Evening in the Garden OR the Hemp Dinner with premier seating
- Link to sponsor's site on Farmington's website and social media pages in association with chosen event
- Recognition on signage at chosen event
- Premium half-page color advertisement in all publications throughout the year

## **\$10,000 Silver Sponsorship**

- One table of eight at Evening in the Garden OR the Hemp Dinner with premier seating
- Recognition as a Sponsor of Farmington Educational Programming
- Link to sponsor's site on Farmington's website and social media pages in association with each event
- Recognition on signage at chosen event and at all educational programs
- Premium half-page color advertisement in all publications throughout the year
- Public recognition at all events

## **\$20,000 Gold Sponsorship**

- One table of eight at Evening in the Garden AND the Hemp Dinner with premier seating
- Premier recognition as a Sponsor of Farmington Educational Programming
- Link to sponsor's site on Farmington's website and social media pages in association with each event
- Premier recognition on signage at all on-site events
- Premium half-page color advertisement in all publications throughout the year
- Public recognition at all events

## **\$50,000 Platinum Sponsorship**

- Two (2) tables of eight at Evening in the Garden AND the Hemp Dinner with premier seating
- Named Annual Sponsorship on Louisville Public Media
- Lead recognition as a Sponsor of Farmington Educational Programming
- Link to sponsor's site on Farmington's website and social media pages in association with each event
- Lead recognition on signage at all on-site events
- Premium full-page color advertisement in all publications throughout the year
- Public recognition at all events

**+\$3,500 Derby Breakfast Sponsorship** – The Historic Homes Foundation, Inc., (HHF) is a not-for-profit 501(c)3 charitable organization chartered in 1957 to purchase, preserve and display historic sites and to advance education, culture and the arts in Kentucky. HHF is the parent organization for Farmington, Whitehall, and the Thomas Edison House and proceeds from the Derby Breakfast benefit all three historic sites.

- All of the benefits of your Farmington corporate sponsorship
- A Reserved table for eight at the Derby Breakfast
- Name placement on event signage
- Name placement and company link in event social media marketing
- Name placement and company link on Historic Homes Foundation and associated properties' websites





## Evening in the Garden

On June 15, Jana Clanton Dowds was awarded the Anne Bruce Haldeman award at our annual Evening in the Garden dinner for her unwavering work in Kentucky landscapes, preservation and history. For the past 14 years Ms. Dowds has advocated on legislative issues affecting parks and conservation, energy, air and water, climate change, carbon sequestration, biodiversity and wildlife. Minority Leader Mitch McConnell sent a letter commending her work and this well-deserved honor, and Mayor Greenberg stopped by to offer his congratulations.



# Fire in the Field

*Saturday, Nov. 11*

*6-9pm*

*Join us for a cozy evening by a campfire with smores, hot dogs, and more.*

*Free and Open to the Public.  
Refreshments available for purchase.*



# Volunteer Profile

**Name:** Heather Shockley    **Age:** 21

**How long have you volunteered as a docent at Farmington?**

2.5 years

**What led you to become a volunteer?**

I'm currently a history major at JCTC and I love to teach people about history.

**What have you learned by being a docent?**

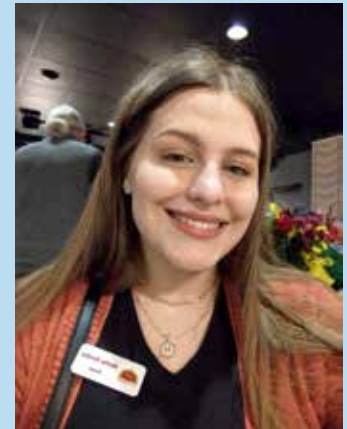
Communication skills and time management – each tour should be for a set amount of time.

**What has been the best part of being a docent?**

Helping people understand the past and learn from it to build a better future.

**Why would you recommend that other people volunteer for Farmington?**

Because Farmington has a great sense of community and you'll be able to experience a unique slice of Kentucky history.



**Would you like to Volunteer?**

Our next docent training is coming up in December.

Write  
Kathy@historichomes.org  
to register.

# Donor Profile

**How long have you been a supporter of Farmington?**

15 to 20 years

**What roles have you held with Farmington?**

Served on their board for a number of years.

**Why would you encourage others to support Farmington?**

Farmington is a relatively unknown gem in our community. By being one of the major historic houses in Jefferson County we have a story to tell about the people who lived and worked on this site. We need to retain and preserve the architecture and historic aspects of the home and outbuildings.

**What is unique about Farmington?**

Farmington is set apart from the other historic properties by our connection to Lincoln.

**Anything else you'd like to add?**

I encourage the community to visit our site often and enjoy the gardens. Farmington has a number of events annually so make an effort to attend and learn more of our history and mission.





# Farmington Museum Store

Open Tuesday - Saturday 9:00 am - 3:00 pm



## Holiday Open House Saturday, December 2, 6-9pm



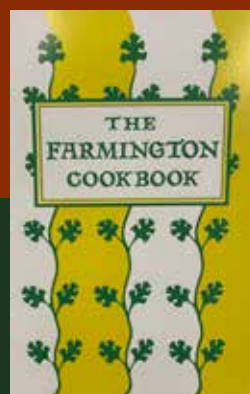
Get a jump on your holiday shopping, enjoy seasonal beverages, and take a hayride around Farmington and through Wellington to admire the neighborhood lights.



STONWARE & CO.  
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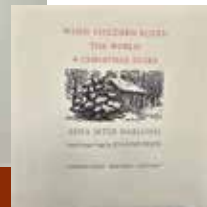
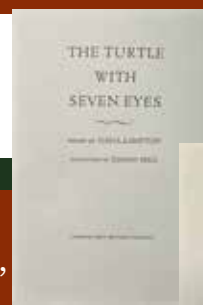
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Kentucky authors, children's books,  
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The Farmington Museum Store is a satellite of Carmichael's Bookstore



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# Holiday Raffle

WIN a 4 night stay in beautiful Dahlenega, GA  
and a bottle of BLANTON'S is included!



Historic Dahlenega is the location of the first gold rush in the United States. Dahlenega's Downtown District -- listed on the National Register -- is one of the South's most quaint and active town centers. It features historic streets, a public square, museums, and green-space parks. Enjoy a walking tour, shopping, and dining or tour the local wineries. Hike, paddle, and canoe nearby rivers with scenic waterfalls. This 3 Bedroom, 3 bath house comes complete with all of the amenities you'll need for a memorable getaway.

Buy your Raffle tickets at :  
[visitfarmington.org/holidayraffle](http://visitfarmington.org/holidayraffle)  
or use this QR code.

**\$50 per Chance**



**Farmington**

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