

A Great 200th Anniversary for Elkton!

Elkton's 200 year birthday celebration was a great success thanks in part to the celebration co-chairs and committee members Eva Claire Smith, Ann Smith, Doug Turner, Beverly Turner, George Newman, Grace Ashford, Beatrice Coleman, Eddie Woodard and Matt Gardner Homestead board members Elmorie Miller and the chair for the Elkton celebration board member Roosevelt Whitfield.

The day started with a parade and was filled with food, fun, and fellowship. There was entertainment on stage throughout the day from numerous bands, individuals, and groups. If something to eat was what you wanted, there was food plus all sorts of items for purchase from vendors throughout the city and of course a huge birthday cake to help celebrate the day.



Activities on the grounds of the Matt Gardner Homestead during Elkton's 200th Anniversary celebration. Photo courtesy Michael Gavin, MTSU

The crowd at the celebration really enjoyed the cultural groups that were brought to the downtown stage by the Matt Gardner Homestead Museum. The Temple of Praise mimes and steppers performed their routines to gospel music while engaging the audience with hand clapping, body rocking and foot patting to their performances. The Global Education Centers African Caribbean Dancers and the Djembefole Drummers took the stage later in the afternoon and they too motivated the crowd to take part in their performance. So much so they received a standing ovation from the crowd. Board member Elmorie Miller gave a presentation on the African American history of Elkton.

On the grounds of the museum was more treats, fun, and fellowship. There was bingo and Elkton trivia games with lots of winners and lots of great prizes. Caricature artist Tim Oliphant and balloon artist Scott Tripp were busy all day explaining to their audience how they performed their visual artwork as well as thrilling the young and old with their artistry. **It was a great celebration all around!**

A Special Guest Visits the Museum

We had a special guest at the museum to help us celebrate the 200th anniversary of Elkton. Stopping by was Dr. J. P. Lewis Jr., a dentist from Birmingham Alabama and the son of J. P. Lewis Sr. the principle of Bridgeforth High School in Pulaski for 20 years. His grandfather was Dr. William Albert Lewis, an African American doctor in Giles County for many years who delivered over 2,000 babies. The younger Lewis heard about our celebration and came to fellowship with us and to share the day remembering the past and reminiscing about his father and grandfather. **Thanks again for sharing the day with us!**

To make a tax deductible donation...visit www.mattgardnerhomestead.com

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Matt Gardner Homestead Museum

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For More Information

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Thanks to Our Many Celebration Supporters!

We would like to thank our sponsors without whose contributions and support these events would not have been possible at the Matt Gardner Museum and at the downtown celebration.

Many thanks for the contributions from our local Wal-Mart store in Pulaski and the Tennessee Arts Commission.



MGHM would like to thank local businesses and organizations that supported our event: Sunrise Chapel of Elkton, Ardmore Memorial Funeral Home, Your Community Shopper newspaper of Ardmore, Pulaski's Richland Inn, Temple of Praise, Martin Methodist College 3PTV and Radio station WWLX.

A big thank you also to the businesses that provided gifts and prizes: Richland Inn, Lili's Chinese Restaurant, The

Sonic, Long John Silvers, KFC, and Home Depot all of Pulaski and El Almela Restaurant, Pizza Hut, Subway, and Whitt's Bar-B-Que all of Ardmore.

A special thanks goes out for the hard work and support of Elkton Mayor Bill Ware, Pastor Eddie Woodard, Kevin Hood, and John Patel of Richland Inn.

And last but not least, a big thank you to all the visitors and friends who stopped by and enjoyed the activities at the Matt Gardner Homestead Museum.



On behalf of the Matt Gardner Homestead Foundation, Carla Jones, President (rt) accepts a donation check from Pulaski's Wal-Mart. This donation and a grant from the Tennessee Arts Commission provided support for the special event activities at the Matt Gardner Homestead for Elkton's 200th Anniversary celebration.

Photo courtesy Carla Jones

Looking for more information about the
Matt Gardner Homestead Museum?

Visit our new website at
www.mattgardnerhomestead.com

MGHM Board Retreat

On June 20 and 21 the MGHM held a board member retreat under the direction of David Currey, independent consultant. Our special interest guest was Ms. Melinda Maes, former Director of Education & Public Programming at Travellers Rest Plantation & Museum, Nashville, TN. The purpose of the meeting was to strengthen and reaffirm board member support, responsibilities and duties. We also discussed ways to expedite the opening of the museum and the future direction of the museum and area's within the organization that need strengthening such as research, history education, accounting, marketing and advertising, development of fundraising, volunteers, general maintenance, and preservation and restoration practices. Look for some exciting new information in future newsletters.

Welcome to Our Newest Members

Sheila Gardner, Shaker Heights, OH

Joann Gardner, Florence, AL

Jean Webb, Fayetteville, TN

Jewel Dockery, Fayetteville, TN

Shirley Thomas, Louisville, KY

We are happy to welcome new members to our organization. If you are not a member yet, please consider joining today.

Join online at www.mattgardnerhomestead.com
or Contact:

Carla Jones at 1-317-547-9386