Heroes, Hometowns and Legacies

Escort Notes

September 14 – 17, 2023

Visit Clarksville Contact: Frances Manzitto, CTIS • Director of Tourism Sales

e: [frances@visitclarkvilletn.com](mailto:frances@visitclarkvilletn.com) • c: 931.320.0869

Day One – Thursday, September 14, 2023

**Basic Clarksville Demographics and Info.**

* Clarksville is the 5th largest city in Tennessee
* [Nashville](https://worldpopulationreview.com/us-cities/nashville-tn-population) (682,262)
* [Memphis](https://worldpopulationreview.com/us-cities/memphis-tn-population) (650,980)
* [Knoxville](https://worldpopulationreview.com/us-cities/knoxville-tn-population) (188,326)
* [Chattanooga](https://worldpopulationreview.com/us-cities/chattanooga-tn-population) (185,442)
* [Clarksville](https://worldpopulationreview.com/us-cities/clarksville-tn-population) (163,456)
* Montgomery County population is estimated to be 227,900 in July on 2021.
* Clarksville is the only incorporated city in Montgomery County.
* Large businesses in the industrial park off Wilma Rudolph Blvd.
  + Hankook – their first tire manufacturing plant in the US
  + Most advanced Google Data center in US
  + LG Electronics
  + Akebono Brakes
  + Jostens Printing – prints high school yearbooks.

**Remembrance Ceremony – Hilldale Baptist Church**

* You have arrived in Clarksville just in time to honor some of our country’s heroes at our Welcome Home Veterans Remembrance Ceremony. Your patriotism will soar at this ceremony featuring a “Massing of the Colors”, special music by the Clarksville-Montgomery County High School Choirs and special speakers honoring our veterans.
* Seats will be marked for each group. Your guide will give you guidance on where to unload and park.

Day Two – Friday, September 15, 2023

**Loretta Lynn’s Ranch**

* This is a 90-minute drive. It is a great time to watch the film “Coal Miner’s Daughter” on the way to Hurricane Mills. There is some language in the movie.
* Visit Loretta’s Antebellum home, where the children grew up and the legendary Crisco commercials were filmed, followed by a visit to the Coal Miner’s Daughter Museum. There will be free time to visit the shops in Western Town and take an optional tour of the Butcher Holler house. This is the replica that was used in the filming of Coal Miner’s Daughter.
* The Loretta Lynn Ranch sits on over 3,500 acres in the historic district of Hurricane Mills, located about sixty-five miles west of Nashville. On the Ranch is a Civil War era plantation home, which was home to Loretta Lynn and her family until the late 1980s, a grist mill, post office, and old western town. Owner and businessman James Anderson built the traditional Greek revival style plantation house in 1876. The site where the house rests is near Fort Donelson, where a Civil War battle took place, and reportedly, 19 Confederate soldiers died on the property and were buried there. The old church located on property was presumably used as a hospital during the war.
* In 1966, Loretta Lynn, whose career was beginning to take off, and her husband Mooney were out looking for a new home for their family when they happened to come across the large white plantation home after taking a wrong turn. Upon seeing the house, Loretta decided that was the house she was wanted. The Lynns ended up purchasing not only the plantation home that had not been lived in for twenty years, but also 1,450 acres that included the town of Hurricane Mills. The cost was $220,000. After an extensive renovation and restoration project, in early 1967, Loretta Lynn and her family moved into the home. In the 1970s, Mooney Lynn decided to start a dude ranch consisting of tennis courts, horseback trails, and more. In the late 1980s, a replica of the old cabin in Butcher Holler Loretta grew up in was brought to Hurricane Mills. The cabin is the first stop on a tour before going over to the plantation home.
* The plantation house has been rumored to be a hotbed of paranormal activity. Many visitors, and even Loretta Lynn and members of her family, have stated they experienced paranormal activity while in the home. Her son claims that he woke-up in the middle of the night and saw a Confederate soldier standing at the foot of the bed. Visitors, and Loretta herself, have reported seeing a woman in white standing on the balcony and in the graveyard by the house. It was later discovered that Beula Anderson died 12 days after her stillborn son. It has been said that she is the "lady in white" roaming the property. Hurricane Mills has been featured on a number of paranormal activity shows and documentaries.

**Johnny Cash’s Storyteller Farm**

* Located in Bon Aqua, Tennessee, this is about a 30-minute drive from Loretta Lynn’s Ranch.
* Owned by Johnny Cash for more than 30 years, he described this farm as the “Center of his universe.” Passengers can tour his farmhouse and the American Garage, full of unique items in the collection of Brian Oxley, the owner of the farm. The “One Piece at a Time” car is among the collection.
* While at the farm, they will be entertained by Mark Alan Cash, Johnny Cash’s nephew.
* Lunch will be served at the farm.

**Beachaven Winery**

* Beachaven Vineyards & Winery has been making award winning wines right here for over 35 years but our family has been making wine in Tennessee with Tennessee grown fruit for over five decades across three generations.
* The concept of Beachaven was fostered by William O. Beach. Born and raised in Clarksville, TN, Beach had a successful professional career as a lawyer, Judge and eventually County Executive of Montgomery County. As a wine enthusiast, however, it was only natural to try production for himself. In the late 60s Judge Beach began winemaking as a hobby, even planting his own vineyard. In 1970 Beach entered the Knoxville World’s Fair amateur wine making competition winning a gold medal for his champagne and adding fuel to the fire.
* In the late 70s Judge Beach’s son-in-law Ed Cooke joined Beach in his pursuits. Cooke, a native of Kingsport, Tennessee, believed in the possibilities of Tennessee viticulture, planting his own vineyard. By the early 80s the two had earned enough accolades and support that commercial production seemed attainable. In 1984 Beach and Cooke purchased the land that is now the site of the winery.
* Although prohibition had been repealed nationally Tennessee did not have laws allowing for wine production. Judge Beach, along with Faye Wheeler of Stonehouse Winery, lobbied the Tennessee Legislature to advance laws to make wineries in the state legal. Officially licensed in 1986, Beachaven was only the 11th winery in the state. We are now the second oldest winery among a current field quickly approaching 100.  
  ​
* The passing of Judge Beach in 1991 was a definite milestone in the history of the winery. At this point Beach’s daughter, Louisa Cooke, joined the company in a permanent fashion. Having been involved in every previous step it was only natural that she come on full time in the wake of such a loss. Ed and Louisa drove the winery for the following 30 years.
* Today, Ed & Louisa’s son, Wilson is Operations Manager of the winery. Wilson grew up helping the Judge with his early vintages and working after school and summers at the winery. He worked for several years in the Michigan wine industry as well as a vintage in New Zealand expanding his wine education. He has become the third generation of the family to work in the business.
* Dinner will be a bbq/hamburgers and hot dogs.
* Passenger Creek will be performing. They are a local bluegrass band that include the great grandson of Opry legend, Uncle Dave Macon, on the banjo and a 3-time state fiddle champion.
* Tables will be reserved for your group at the picnic.

**Hank Williams, Sr. Tribute Show**

* Jason Petty re-creates such Williams' hits as "I'm So Lonesome I Could Cry", "Your Cheatin' Heart", "Hey Good Lookin' ", "Kaw-Liga", "Cold Cold Heart", "Lovesick Blues" and many more. But this astonishing show is more than just a Hank Williams tribute...thus the title. Jason pays tribute to stars that influenced Hank and those stars that Hank influenced. Backed by an authentic four-piece band, "Hank and My Honky Tonk Heroes" will make you smile, make you cry, and make you clap your hands and stomp your feet with excitement.
* The location is TBD

Day Three – Saturday, September 16, 2023

**Welcome Home Veterans Parade**

Enroute to downtown – Austin Peay State University

* The charter for what we know as Austin Peay institution of higher education may have been signed in 1927, but this campus has been a home for education far predating APSU. The university's urban campus has stood in downtown Clarksville for more than 180 years and has housed five educational colleges.
* The University began as Austin Peay Normal School when it was created as a two-year junior college and teacher-training institution by Act of the General Assembly of 1927 and named in honor of [Governor Austin Peay](https://www.apsu.edu/about-apsu/austin-peay.php), who was serving his third term of office when the school was established. Limited in purposes and resources initially, the school gradually grew in stature over the years to take its place among the colleges and universities under the control of the State Board of Education.
* By Act of the Tennessee Legislature of February 4, 1943, the name of the school was changed to Austin Peay State College.
* Today, Austin Peay offers exceptional graduate and undergraduate programs to more than 10,000 students, and the 2016 acquisition of more than 10 acres has expanded the campus deeper into downtown Clarksville.
* Mascot – Governor. Cheer – “Let’s Go Peay”..(they love this)

**Parade**

* Seating for the parade will be in front of the Montgomery County Courthouse on the 2nd St. side. They will be able to drop directly in front of the courthouse.
* Any veterans in your group are invited to participate in the parade. Have your step on guide communicate with Frances Manzitto and she will make the necessary arrangements.
* The parade begins at 10am. It usually reaches the courthouse by 10:15am. It is about 30 – 40 minutes long.
* After the parade, your group will be free to explore downtown Clarksville. There is an event called “Frolic on Franklin” that offers arts and craft vendors. Each passenger will be given a map highlighting restaurants and shops. The Downtown Market will also be operating until 1pm.
* Pick up after lunch in front of the courthouse.

**Downtown Highlights**

**Customs House Museum** - The Customs House Museum & Cultural Center is partially housed in a historic 1898 building, which was originally constructed as a Federal Post Office and Customs House to handle the large volume of foreign mail created by the city’s international trade in tobacco. It also housed the Clarksville Department of Electricity from 1940 to 1983 before becoming a museum. The building was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1972.

With its 1983 charter, this institution was founded as the Clarksville-Montgomery County Historical Museum. The museum’s mission and building expanded in 1996. The institution became known as the Customs House Museum & Cultural Center.

**Roxy Regional Theatre** - Since the early 1900s, the corner of Franklin and First has been the cornerstone of local entertainment. The Lillian, built in 1913, was the first movie theatre in Clarksville. Following a fire in 1914, the Lillian was rebuilt in 1915 and saw thousands of patrons enjoying silent pictures. The theatre went “dark” during the Great Depression, but with the advent of Fort Campbell, the Lillian was renamed the Roxy. Following a second fire in 1945, the Roxy was completely rebuilt and became the new Roxy Theatre. A sleek exterior, featuring a new lighting called neon, beaconed movie-goers from miles around. Opening in 1947, The Roxy entertained Clarksvillians with first-run movies until 1980. In the mid 1980’s, the Roxy was reborn into a live theatre and became a professional theatre in 1995.

**Montgomery County Courthouse** - The first courthouse was constructed by James Adams on Spring Street and Main Street in 1796. The second courthouse was constructed in 1811. The third courthouse was constructed in 1843 and was destroyed by fire in 1878. The fourth and present courthouse was constructed in 1879. The building was damaged by fire on March 12, 1900 and restored. The architect was Kenneth McDonald of Louisville, Kentucky and the contractor was Charles A Moses of Chicago, Illinois. On January 22, 1999, the building was destroyed by a tornado and was rebuilt. The architect was Lyle, Cook and Martin of Clarksville and the contractor was R C Matthews of Nashville. The cost of construction of the courthouse in 1879 was $100,000. The fifth and present courthouse was constructed in 2000 to 2002.

**Historic Collinsville**

* Located in rural Montgomery County, this pioneer settlement depicts what life was like from 1840 - 1900. Chock full of authentic antiques and furnishings, this really is like a step back in time.
* All the log buildings will be open and ready to tour with docents explaining the history of the buildings and area.
* Historic Collinsville was established by Glenn and JoAnn Weakley. They had a love for history and wanted to provide a way for children to learn history. It opened to the public in 1985. The Weakley’s sold Historic Collinsville to Montgomery County before their passing in 2021. It is operated by Visit Clarksville.
* They will be given about 2 hours to explore the area. Each person will have the opportunity to make butter.

**Oak Grove Gaming – Closing Dinner**

The drive to Oak Grove Gaming is a good time to talk about Ft. Campbell Army Installation.

**Fort Campbell**

* Fort Campbell was founded in 1941 as a result of the bombing of Pearl Harbor. It was intended to be a temporary installation and was called Camp Campbell, Tennessee, as the post office was located on the Tennessee side of the state line. 2/3 of the installation is in Tennessee, the rest is in KY.
* Fort Campbell, Kentucky, is named in honor of Brig. Gen. William Bowen Campbell, the last Whig governor of Tennessee. He was elected colonel of the First Tennessee Volunteers, the “Bloody First,” and is remembered in history as he led his regiment in the storming of Monterey in 1846 with the cry, “Boys, follow me!”
* Following WWII Camp Campbell was selected as a storage site for nuclear weapons, this storage site became known as “Clarksville Base” and was a top-secret installation that at one time held 1/3rd of America’s nuclear arsenal. In the spring of 1949, the 11th Airborne Division arrived at Campbell following occupation duty in Japan. The 11th was in residence there until early 1956.
* In April 1950, the post became a permanent installation and was re-designated Fort Campbell.
* Fort Campbell is the nation’s premier power projection platform. Strategically located on the Tennessee-Kentucky state line, the 106,700-acre installation possesses a unique capability to deploy mission-ready contingency forces by air, rail, highway, and inland waterway.
* Fort Campbell is proud to be the home of the only air assault division in the world, the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault). It is also the home of two prestigious Special Operations Command units, the 5th Special Forces Group (Airborne) and the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment (Airborne).
* The 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) is the only air assault division of the United States Army. Nicknamed the “Screaming Eagles,” the 101st has consistently distinguished itself by demonstrating the highest standards of military professionalism since its activation at one minute after midnight, Aug. 16, 1942.
* On Aug. 19 of that year, the first commander, Maj. Gen.William C. Lee, promised his new recruits that although the new division had no history, it would soon have a “rendezvous with destiny.” As a division, the101st has never failed that prophecy.
* General Order No. 5, which gave birth to the division, reads: “The 101st Airborne Division, activated at Camp Claiborne, has no history, but it has a rendezvous with destiny. Like the early American pioneers whose invincible courage was the foundation stone of this nation, we have broken with the past and its traditions in order to establish our claim to the future. Due to the nature of our armament, and the tactics in which we shall perfect ourselves, we shall be called upon to carry out operations of far-reaching military importance and we shall habitually go into action when the need is immediate and extreme. Let me call your attention to the fact that our badge is the great American eagle. This is a fitting emblem for a division that will crush its enemies by falling upon them like a thunderbolt from the skies. The history we shall make, the record of high achievement we hope to write in the annals of the American Army and the American people, depends wholly and completely on the men of this division. Each individual, each officer and each enlisted man, must therefore regard himself as a necessary part of a complex and powerful instrument for the overcoming of the enemies of the nation. Each, in his job, must realize that he is not only a means, but an indispensable means for obtaining the goal of victory. It is, therefore, not too much to say that the future itself, in whose molding we expect to have our share, is in the hands of the Soldiers of the 101st Airborne Division.”
* The Screaming Eagles are one of the most deployed and recognized divisions in the U.S. Army, with a combat record spanning from the paratroopers of World War II to the Security Force Assistance Teams deployed in Afghanistan today.
* The 101st Airborne Division was activated Aug. 16, 1942, at Camp Claiborne, Louisiana. Its first commanding general, Maj. Gen. William C. Lee, noted that the division had no history but that it had a “rendezvous with destiny” and that the new division would be habitually called into action when the need was “immediate and extreme.” Throughout its more than 75-year history, the division has amassed a proud record, in both war and peace, unmatched by any other unit.
* Following its activation and initial training in the United States, the division embarked for the European Theater of Operations in September 1943, where it continued its training in England. During the early morning hours of June 6, 1944, the Screaming Eagles parachuted into the Cotentin Peninsula, becoming the first Allied Soldiers to set foot onto occupied France. The 101st Airborne Division, charged with clearing the way for the 4th Infantry Division’s landing on Utah Beach, eventually linked the Utah and Omaha beachheads and liberated the city of Carentan. After a month of fighting, the division returned to England to prepare for future operations.
* The immediate postwar period marked an intermittent existence for the Screaming Eagles. The period is marked by several reactivations and inactivations at Camp Breckinridge, Kentucky, and Fort Jackson, South Carolina. Official reactivation ceremonies, held Sept. 21, 1956, marked the 101st Airborne Division’s return to active-duty as the Army’s first nuclear-capable Pentomic Division and its debut at Fort Campbell, Kentucky.
* In September 1957, some elements of the 101st Airborne Division were ordered to Little Rock, Arkansas, by President Eisenhower. As part of Operation Arkansas, the 1st Airborne Battle Group, 327th Infantry escorted the first nine African American students — the “Little Rock Nine” — as they attended classes at Little Rock Central High School. Successful, the Bastogne Bulldogs returned to Fort Campbell in late 1957.
* On July 29, 1965, the 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division was ordered to the Republic of Vietnam, earning the nickname of “The Nomads of Vietnam.” The remainder of the division remained at Fort Campbell until ordered to Vietnam in late 1967. During the enemy’s ill-fated Tet Offensive in 1968, the Screaming Eagles were involved in combat operations from Saigon to Quang Tri Province.
* In August 1968, the Screaming Eagles shed their parachutes in favor of helicopter-borne operations earning a brand-new designation — the101st Airborne Division (Airmobile). After the Tet Offensive, the division settled into Thua Thien Province and continued offensive operations there until redeployed to the United States in early 1972.
* The post-Vietnam period was a time of change for the Army and the 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile). In February 1974, then-Maj. Gen.Sidney Berry signed Division General Order 179, authorizing wear of the new airmobile (later air assault) qualification badge. Reflecting a shift in structure and orientation, the division was re-designated as the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) on Oct. 4, 1974.
* In March 1982, elements of the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) began six-month deployments to the Sinai Peninsula as members of the Multi-national Force of Observers. Tragedy struck in December 1985, when 248 Screaming Eagles redeploying from Sinai were killed in a charter airplane crash near Gander, Newfoundland.
* In August 1990, the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) deployed to the Middle East in support of operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm. During the Liberation of Kuwait, the division fired the first shots of the air war and conducted the longest and largest air assault operations to date, securing Iraqi territory in the Euphrates River Valley. With announcement of the Safwan cease-fire in February 1991, the 101st began redeployment preparations. By May 1991, the Screaming Eagles were home.
* The 1990s was a busy time for the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), seeing numerous deployments in support of stability and support operations worldwide. Fort Campbell-based units were deployed to Somalia, Haiti, the Sinai Peninsula, Central and South America, Bosnia and Kosovo.
* In the wake of the 9/11 terrorist attacks, elements of the division quickly deployed to protect susceptible facilities in the United States from potential attack. Almost immediately, the 3rd Brigade Combat Team deployed to Afghanistan in November 2001. In March 2002, the Rakkasans were, in part, responsible for offensive operations in the Shah-I-Khot Valley that dealt a crippling early blow to the Taliban and al-Qaida. After a challenging six-month deployment, the 3rd Brigade redeployed to the United States. Some part of the division has been deployed regularly since 2002
* The 101st is recognized for its unmatched Air Assault capability, its ability to execute any combat or contingency mission anywhere in the world and is still proving its mettle as “tomorrow’s division in today’s Army.”
* Fort Campbell supports the 3rd largest military population in the Army and the 7th largest in the DoD.
  + Total Military 30,656
  + Total Civilian Employees 8,040
  + Total Family Members 51,740
  + Population Supported 112,454
* Campbell Army Airfield is the Army's largest, spanning 2,500 acres and serving as a secondary landing site for the National Aeronautics & Space Administration and the space shuttle. Campbell Army Airfield is the home of two U.S. Air Force tenant units working diligently to keep aircraft of the division flying safely. They are 19th Air Support Operation Squadron and Operating Location U 621 Mobility Operations Group. The Campbell I Military Operations Area (MOA) is located next to the main runway at Fort Campbell. This airspace starts at 500 feet above ground level and extends to 10,000 feet above sea level.
* Campbell Army Airfield is one of several way points designated by NASA as a stopover location when moving Space Shuttle orbiters between the West and East coasts. The Shuttle Atlantis and its 747-carrier aircraft were on public display at Fort Campbell on 26 September 1998. The Shuttle stopped at Campbell Army Airfield en route from Palmdale, CA, to the Kennedy Space Center, FL, after undergoing months of refurbishment. The planned overnight stop at Campbell Army Airfield has been extended through the weekend because of threatening weather in Florida.

**Oak Grove Gaming**

* Dinner and show will be in the ballroom. You will unload at the hotel entrance and there will be staff to direct your passengers.
* Tables will be marked for each group. We will release by table for the buffet.
* The Legends and Legacies of Country Music” show will take your guests on a walk-through Country Music History. Hosted by Mark Alan Cash and featuring other descendants of country music legends and recording artists, this show has something for every country music fan.
* We will determine an amount of time for each group to spend on the gaming floor prior to arrival.

**Day Four – Sunday, September 17, 2023**

It’s been a great trip! Have a safe trip home.