

Historic Civil War home scheduled for restoration

With plans underway for restoration of the historic old Des Arc home at 8th and Main Streets, the owner, Kimberly King Clearwater, writes this week:

As one of the oldest residences in Des Arc (built circa 1847 - and which was used as a hospital during the Civil War); the Frith-Plunkett house will be restored to reflect its place in time and history. As the project is going through the phases of historical restoration, the house is getting a surprising amount of attention. Over the past 12 months, it has been photographed and published by individuals around the state. The property has most recently been highlighted in both gohistoric.org and civilwarbuff.org. With it being the sesquicentennial of the Civil War, there is a lot of attention now on this historical gem. Over the last year, the property has been reviewed by several historical experts, who were all impressed with the "bones" of the structure and its architectural integrity.

Last week Mr. Brian Driscoll of the Arkansas Historical Preservation Program came to Des Arc to advise on the project. He recommended, stabilizing the property with supports, closing off all windows and voids in the exterior siding, and removing the metal underpinning to remove dampness. "These measures should be considered temporary and it's more important that they are effective rather than attractive" stated, Mr. Driscoll. Restoring a historical landmark takes time and must be done correctly.

The home is awarded with both the National Register of Historical Places and the Arkansas Register of Histori-



Frith-Plunkett Home - circa 1847

cal Places. And its history speaks for itself.

"The Frith-Plunkett House reflects the prosperity of the most successful economic era (1850-62) in this rural rivertown's history. As a result of its auspicious location on the White River, a critical transportation artery in antebellum Arkansas, Des Arc's population increased dramatically during the 1850s.

The Civil War period was quite devastating for Des Arc with many buildings burned and others dismantled to salvage lumber for use by the Union Army in nearby DeValls Bluff, thus rendering the survival of the Frith-Plunkett house especially compelling. Not only historically important, the structure which retains much of its antebellum integrity is an important East Arkansas vernacular example of the Greek Revival style. Though essentially an "I" house, a traditional Arkansas form, the two-story Classically-influenced portico distinguishes this residence. The portico depicts a clear understanding of the components of the Classical Greek Revival style. Although the Classical vocabulary is interpreted in a simplified fashion, careful attention to detail and craftsmanship is evident. Both architecturally and historically significant, the Frith-Plunkett House presents a unique representation of the architecture that formed the backdrop for Des Arc's pre-Civil War development." as quoted by <http://www.arkansaspreservation.com>.

For current information on the project, one can visit the website www.civilwarproperty.com. Journal readers, those who care about Des Arc, and just regular history buffs should find the prospect of this old historical house being restored an exciting as well as educational process.

More information and photos (exterior & interior) will be available in this newspaper and on line in the expected near future.

Local couple appears on NBC's "Steve Harvey Show"

By Kelcie Huffstickler

Several months ago, a friend told me that the Steve Harvey Show was hosting a search for "America's Hottest Husband." I've always believed my husband, Tyler, is America's Hottest, so on a whim, I filled out a couple questions on the show's website, uploaded a photo, and clicked "send." (I also didn't tell Tyler anything about it!) I figured the chances of the show even seeing my submission in the sea of entries were slim to none, so I moved on without thinking much more about it.

Imagine my surprise when, around the first of December, I got a voicemail from one of the Steve Harvey Show producers! At this point, I told Tyler what I had done, and he was in disbelief. He was honestly shocked that he could potentially be chosen for something like this. When I called the producer back, we had a friendly chat, and she requested some more information. I then filled out an extensive questionnaire, which asked all kinds of questions - more so about his character than his looks. I also submitted many more photos, including ones of our whole family.

The producer, Melinda, and I conversed on and off for the next few weeks. She even had us send in a video of the two of us to ensure we had "good enough energy" for TV. Sure enough, the last week of January, we got the call. Tyler had been chosen as one of the "top 4" and we would be flying to Chicago the next week to tape the show! We quickly made arrangements for our kids,



Tyler



Kelcie

took off work, and went shopping. We were going to be on national TV! (Granted, I was more excited than Tyler was. He kept assuring me he "was just doing this for me.")

We flew out Monday morning, Feb. 4, and after a long layover in Charlotte, landed in Chicago about 4 p.m. It was snowing when we arrived. A car picked us up at the airport and took us to our hotel, Hyatt Chicago Magnificent Mile, which was gorgeous. We got settled in and agreed the one thing we wanted to do was eat some Chicago-style pizza! Several friends had recommended we eat at Giordano's, and luckily, there was one within walking distance, so we bundled up and headed that way. The pizza was amazing. I ate way too much and regretted it later!

When we made it back to the hotel, the show called and said they were going to send a couple people over to take a few more photos of Tyler. He was a little nervous about that, but thankfully, the couple that came were very friendly, laid back, and put us at ease. In fact, everyone we met at the show was impressively friendly.

The next morning, we

were to be in the lobby at 9:45 a.m. waiting on our ride to the studio. When we stepped out of the elevator, we saw all the other couples who were headed to the show too. Obviously, there was a little awkward tension as we scoped each other out! A limo soon arrived to pick us up, and all eight of us rode to the studio together. We introduced ourselves, and every couple was actually very nice and friendly.

Once we arrived at NBC Studios, everything was a whirlwind. First, we rehearsed how the show would go. Then we were dressed (their stylists had bought clothes for us!) and sent to hair and make-up. As a girl, I loved every minute of it. Having professionals pick out your clothes and do your hair and make-up is a dream! Throughout the day, the producers instructed us to memorize and rehearse our lines. They had listened carefully to our own words and the things Tyler and I said about each other and written a script based off of what we said. Come showtime, though, we were asked essentially to keep to the script.

The taping of the show was so much fun. Everyone on set and in the studio audience is full of energy, and the atmosphere is almost like a party. The only rules (other than sticking to the script) were to smile and have fun! Our segment on

did, however, receive a \$500 Visa gift card as a consolation prize, which we were very thankful for.

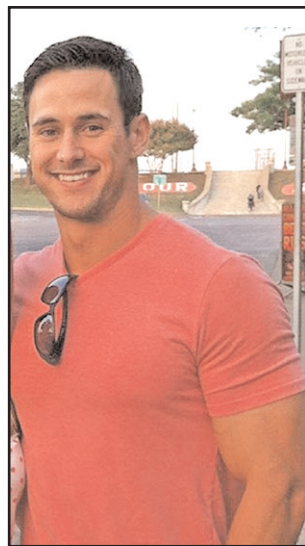
As soon as our segment was over, we changed clothes and a car took us to the airport. We left Chicago as quickly as we had come and were back in Little Rock in no time. Although our trip was very quick and the outcome wasn't what we'd hoped for, it was a once-in-a-lifetime experience, and we are very grateful for the memories!

Kelcie and Tyler's appearance on the Steve Harvey Show aired Wed., Feb. 20. To read more about their journey, visit Kelcie's blog,

www.thisbeautifulinheritance.com.

"Steve Harvey" is a one-hour daytime show on NBC hosted by TV personality, comedian, radio show host and best-selling author, Steve Harvey. Each weekday, Harvey talks to real people with real issues and brings his funny, fresh, insightful and common sense approach to everyday problems.

Kelcie Huffstickler is the



Tyler Huffstickler

daughter of Scott and Deborah Skarda of Des Arc. She and her husband, Tyler, have two daughters, Eden and Selah, and live in Des Arc. Kelcie teaches abstinence education in Prairie County schools and is also a freelance writer. Tyler is a firefighter for the cities of Cabot and Sherwood. He is the son of Mark Huffstickler and Betty Jo Griffith Huffstickler, former Des Arc residents.



Fort Lincoln Freedom Festival Events

Volunteer Meeting

Anyone interested in helping may attend

**Sunday, March 10
At 2:30 p.m.**

**Community Center Auditorium
DeValls Bluff, Arkansas**

Sponsored by The Arnold Family Foundation



Last minute set preparations before show taping



NBC headquarters in Chicago, where show produced

Des Arc Chamber of Commerce Annual Awards Banquet

Saturday, March 9, 6:00 p.m.

Entertainment by

**Raven Walton
National Winner in Dance
and Choreographer**

**Des Arc Elementary Cafetorium
Tickets \$15.00 Per Person**

**Tickets may be purchased from the banks in Des Arc or from Chamber Board members
Also Available at the Door**