

The Mallory-Neely House

652 Adams Ave., Memphis, TN

Brochures

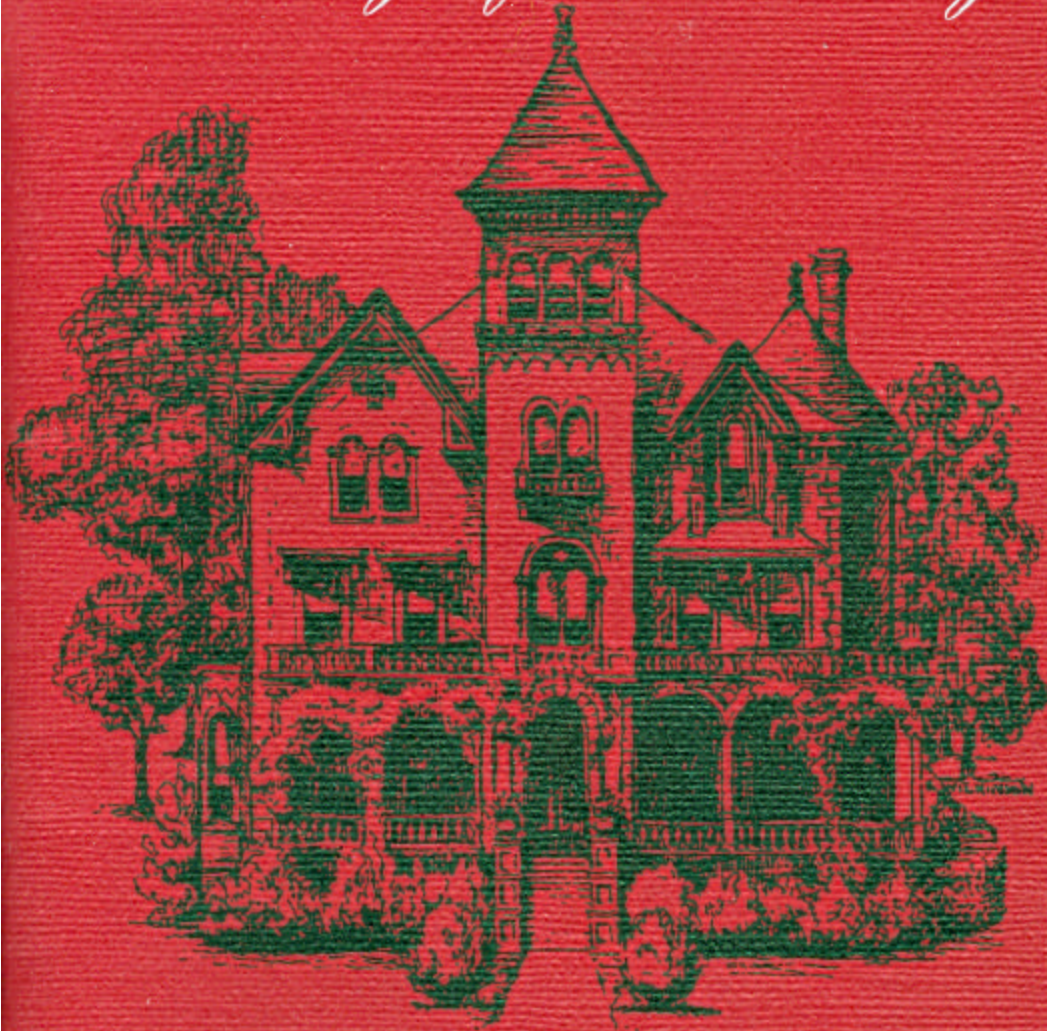
Compiled by Edward Kirtland Hine, Jr. ("Ted")
February 2015

From Materials obtained when touring the home in December of 1998

The Mallory-Neely House was built and first occupied by Isaac Billius Kirtland (1807-1885) who was my 1st cousin 4 times removed.

The following two brochures tell the story of the home. The first, starting on page 2 below, is a classy full color 6"x9" 20 page+ brochure published in 1975. The second, starting on page 24 below is an undated 3-fold black and white pamphlet perhaps from the 1980's or 1990's.

In the days of Miss Daisy...



... 100 Years of a Family, a House, a City

The Mallory-Neely House

DAR-SAR-CAR HOUSE, INC.

652 ADAMS AVENUE MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE



TABLE OF CONTENTS

The Mallory-Neely House—The Four Owners	Page 3
The House as an Historic Site	Page 4
In The Days of Miss Daisy	Page 6
Memphis Yesterday—Today—Tomorrow	Page 18



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THE MALLORY-NEELY HOUSE

"The Four Owners"

By Eugenia H. Smith

652 Adams Avenue is situated on property once owned and inhabited by the Chickasaw Indians. During that time a 5000-acre plot on the bluffs was acquired by John Rice from the Governor of North Carolina in 1789. In 1791 Mr. Rice was killed by Indians while on a trading expedition down the Cumberland River near Clarksville, and his brother, Elisha, inherited the land.

A treaty was signed with the Chickasaw Indians in 1818, thus the land could be opened for settlement. A year later an Act of the Legislature resulted in the establishment of Shelby County, the first to be formed in the Western District.

John Overton became the owner of the Rice tract, and conveyed one-half interest to Andrew Jackson, who subsequently sold a part of it to members of the Winchester family.

After Mr. Overton's death the property passed through the hands of many owners, and 652 Adams became the property of James Jones of Maury County, Tennessee. It extended at that time from Poplar to Adams as well as eastward and westward.

In 1852 Isaac B. Kirtland, who was born in New York, but came to Memphis by way of Mississippi, purchased the property. He was in the banking and insurance business, and was an Elder of Second Presbyterian Church. He was living in a small frame house to the west of the present house when he signed the deed acquiring the plot. He then built the house on the present sight, completing it in the middle 1850's.

In October of 1864 Mr. Kirtland sold the property on the southwest corner, and in December of the same year he sold the residence property to Benjamin Babb. He returned to New York for a couple of years; but returned in 1868 and lived nearby on Alabama Avenue.

Benjamin Babb, born in Virginia, came to Fayette County in 1837 with his sister, Elizabeth and her husband James Lenow. In 1844 he came to Memphis and later married Mrs. Mary (Smith) Kennedy, a widow with two children. She was the niece of Mrs. Mary Magevney, wife of Eugene Magevney. Mr. Babb was in the cotton business and was Director of Union Planters Bank. The family enjoyed this large house until 1883 when he sold it to J.C. Neely.

James Columbus Neely, son of Moses and Jane Parks (McDowell) Neely, was born in North Carolina, but came to Shelby County with his father's family in 1839. In 1854 he came to Memphis to make his fortune. In 1860 he married Miss Frances Blocker of DeSoto County, Mississippi, and lived at 362 Jefferson, corner of Orleans. Their five children were born while living there, and his younger daughter, Frances (known as "Daisy"), was only twelve when they moved to the Adams Street house.

Mr. Neely's daughter, Pearl, married James Daniel Grant in 1890, and in 1900 Daisy was married to Barton Lee Mallory. Both couples made 652 Adams their home. Mr. Neely passed away in 1901, and eventually Miss Daisy became the owner of the property. She died in 1969 at the age of ninety-eight. And it had been her wish that this house in which she lived and loved for her long lifetime be preserved. Her wish has now been fulfilled.

THE MALLORY-NEELY HOUSE

This magnificent twenty-five room Italianate Victorian mansion, with its furnishings intact, is the gift of the children of the late Mrs. Barton Lee Mallory (nee Frances Neely) as a memorial to their mother, who lived most of her ninety-eight years in this house, which has been occupied continuously since 1855. It is one of the few in the United States so authentically preserved and so recognized by professional preservationists. It has been placed on the National Register of Historic Places as part of The Victorian Village.

By deed in 1972, the house and grounds became the property of West Tennessee Chapters of the Daughters, Sons and Children of The American Revolution as a gift from the heirs: namely, Barton Lee Mallory, Jr., Frances Mallory (Mrs. William Morgan), and William Neely Mallory, Jr. Volunteer workers from the Chapters serve at the House which is open to the public daily from 1-4 P.M.

Pauline Jones Arthur
(Mrs. Boyd Arthur)
President

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Sketches by Elisabeth P. Hughes



THE DAYS OF MISS DAISY

By Pat Leeker

The past beckons and bids you welcome to this Victorian Mansion, the center of social and cultural life in Memphis for nearly a century.

"Miss Daisy" (Frances Neely Mallory) was a warm, gracious lady with a spontaneous sense of humor, a gentlewoman reared in a world of Victorian Grandeur. It was her wish that her home be preserved, and it is a fitting tribute that her family has given this magnificent home as a Memorial.

Although she was born a block away at the northeast corner of Jefferson and Orleans, Miss Daisy Neely (Mrs. Barton Lee Mallory) occupied this house for nearly 90 of her 98 years of life.

She was twelve years of age in 1883 when her father, James C. Neely, moved his family from Jefferson Street to 652 Adams. There were five Neely children: Pearl (Mrs. Daniel Grant), Jim, Sid, Daisy and Hugh. (Pearl was six years older than Daisy.).

Mr. Neely, born in North Carolina, came to Shelby County with his father's family in the 1830s. He came to Memphis in 1854 and was co-partner with S.H. Brooks in Brooks, Neely & Company, wholesale grocers, cotton factors and commission merchants.

Mrs. Neely's family was from South Carolina, and she was a descendant of General Jesse Blocker, whose portrait hangs in the dining room.

Both Pearl and Daisy, always clad in proper shirtwaists and long skirts, attended the Clara Conway Institute (Poplar and Carroll) for twelve years, where young ladies were given a broad, basic education. Miss Daisy remembered, *"The halls of the school were filled with reproductions of classical sculpture (Winged Victory, Venus de Milo, Diana). The Library placed emphasis on poetry and music. The entire top floor of the school was an artists' studio with fireplaces for heat."*

Elegantly clad, Miss Conway was a person of high ideals; a strong, charming Southern lady. She taught her students to *"hitch your wagon to the stars."* Twelve years of drilling in the classical arts had a life-long influence on Pearl and Daisy.

In the 1890's life moved at a stately horse-drawn pace. Memphis was recovering from the devastating yellow fever epidemic of the 70's. The prosperous cotton and lumber business was linked to the steamboat trade on the Mississippi River and the network of railways that was covering the Nation.

One's personal life was centered about family, church and home. The J.C. Neelys were active members of First Presbyterian Church where Mrs. Mallory and her family continued as loyal leaders.

Friendships could last a lifetime, as was the case with Miss Daisy and her neighbors—Misses Florence and Mildred McIntyre, the James Lees (steamboat line), and descendants of S.H. Brooks and General Luke E. Wright (who bought the house on the northwest corner of Jefferson).

Life moved more slowly in the humid summers. There were nearby watering places at Germantown and at Raleigh Springs. One might take the train to Chicago or to New York to shop, and go on to spend the holidays at Port Colburn, Ontario, or in Michigan.

In 1888, Daisy was sent to Mrs. Sylvanus Read's Finishing School in New York City (53rd Street and 5th Avenue).

Miss Daisy recalled, "*Pearl went to Miss Armour's School before we both went to Mrs. Read's School in New York City. Pearl was married to James Daniel Grant in this house while I was away at school. Father fixed up the third floor after they were married. Both of their children, Daniel and Neely, were born here. While the boys were still young they went to Europe to live, and upon returning to the United States they lived for a while in New Orleans.*"

About 1890, Mr. Neely redecorated 652 Adams, adding a tower so that he might see the steamboats six blocks west on the Mississippi River. He had acquired a lovely Tiffany window from the Chicago World's Fair, and changed the stairway landing to provide space for the window.

THE STAIRWAY

The three-story winding stairway is high-lighted by the large exceptionally fine Tiffany window at the head of the second-story landing.



On November 13, 1890, the debutante season opened with the Chickasaw Guards Grand Ball. The Chickasaw Guards was a militia of socially prominent young men, formed shortly after the War between the States. Their clubrooms were over the Orpheum Theatre on Second and Beale.

One newspaper man wrote, "A coterie of maidens, charming in the first blush of youth, paused upon the threshold of life in the social world to throw off the trammels of their girlhood and take their place in the foremost ranks of society which had been created for them by generations of noted ancestors."

For the entire month of December there was a brilliant series of elegant theatre parties, dinners, receptions and balls honoring Daisy, and Edith, the S.H. Brooks' daughter, and complimenting Daisy's houseguests, two New York debutante class-mates.

The beautiful reception and ball of December 2nd turned 652 Adams into a "garden wealth of beauty". Pink LaFrance roses tied with pink ribbons decorated the reception room. The white and gold parlors featured passion flowers and many vases of American Beauty roses; green and white were used on the dining table—white Nephitus roses, green fern, and carnations centered on an embroidered white satin cloth. The ceiling-to-floor windows were thrown open, the outside verandas were canvassed, and every corner was filled with fern, rare plants and blooming roses.

French champagne was served. There is no record of the menu "delicate and excellent in its arrangement and the service perfection." Miss Daisy recalled that barrels of live oysters were shipped from New Orleans and fed on corn meal until iced and served.



The portrait of Miss Daisy shows her debut gown, a "Raudnitz" of white gauze trimmed in apple blossoms, diamonds and pearls.

At the December 10th ball held by the S.H. Brooks in their home on Jefferson, Miss Daisy wore a Parisian gown (Worth) of blue tulle and violet. Her necklace and bracelets were of diamonds; she carried violets.



FRONT ENTRANCE DOORS

The original stained glass front doors were installed by Mr. Neely.

SITTING ROOM

This family sitting room, which adjoins the dining room, was the center of daily life in the home. Outstanding among its furnishings is the Chinese teakwood cabinet with mother-of-pearl inlay.

In 1892 the Vanity Fair Book Club was founded and Miss Daisy was one of the founders—others were Misses Ada Hodges, Jennie Fontaine, Fanny Taylor, Rebekah Allison, Edith Brooks, Elizabeth Edwards, Anna Wright, Flora Turley, Frances Falls, Elizabeth Rogers, Evelyn Peters, and Willie B. Mallory, all 1890 and 1891 debutantes. While the primary object of the Club was literary, once a year a large money-making social event, ball or bazaar was given. Monies raised were given to orphans, and to buy coal, food and clothing for the needy.

Today one accepts volunteer work for worthy causes as a part of every day life. In the 1890's it was a bold innovation for socially prominent young ladies to actively engage in social service.

On November 7, 1900, Miss Daisy was married to Barton Lee Mallory at First Presbyterian Church. The bride and brides-maids, dressed in white, with masses of pink Brides-maid roses, were perhaps eclipsed by "little Daniel Grant 11, who was dressed as a court page in pink satin and ermine."

The reception at 652 Adams had its dramatic climax when the gas lines exploded in the street. Standing serenely in an alcove of the candle-lit parlor, a marriage bell of Brides-maid roses and lilies-of-the-valley over them, and behind them a luxuriance of palms and white chrysanthemums, the bride and groom received the congratulations of their friends.

Among the myriad wedding presents there was a fruitwood and ormolu commode from the James T. Harahans, which still graces the beautiful drawing room of the mansion. Too, it was Mr. Harahan's private railway car that took the newlyweds to Mexico for their honeymoon.

Mr. Mallory's sister, Mary, was married to Mr. Harahan of Chicago, President of the Illinois Central Railway. (The railroad bridge, an engineering feat as the first bridge built below St. Louis to cross the Mississippi River at Memphis, was named for him.)

Miss Daisy further recalled, *"For a while we had a house on Pauline Street. Pearl was living here then (652 Adams). We (Daisy and Mr. Mallory) came back here after Father became very ill and died (1901). Mother died in 1905. Neely (Mallory) and the twins (Frances and Lee) were born in this house."*

Miss Mildred McIntyre remembered that the children had a wicker pony cart and pony that were the envy of the neighborhood.

Miss Daisy's daughter, Frances Mallory Morgan remembers: "Mother was on the Board of the Home for Incurables and many other charities, and somehow got to working for a Home for unwed mothers which was run by a Dr. Vallroy. My father suspected Dr. Vallroy was not all he claimed as he eloped with one of the unwed mothers and it was in all of the papers. Mother's remark was 'Well, at least he did pick the largest and the prettiest one.' Needless to say, my father was a very patient man, but always amused by Mother."

In July 1914, Mrs. Daniel Grant (Pearl Neely) helped Miss Florence McIntyre organize the Memphis Art Association. In November 1914 the

first exhibition in Memphis of American artists was held at the Nineteenth Century Club.

For the next 45 years the art movement in Memphis centered on Adams and the neighbors whose lives were so closely intertwined with the Mallorys and the Grants.

In 1915 an exhibition of local artists, and in November another exhibit of American painters was held; again Miss McIntyre and Miss Pearl were in charge. It was June 1916 when Mrs. S.H. Brooks dedicated the Brooks Memorial Art Gallery as a memorial to her husband. Miss Florence McIntyre was the first director. The Memphis Art Association made several purchases for this Municipal Gallery. Mr. B.L. Mallory was one of the first city art commissioners, and later became chairman of the Board of Trustees for the James Lee Memorial Art Academy.



THE DINING ROOM

The wall covering below the chair-rail is hand tooled leather. The large Renaissance Revival table has nine leaves and seats twenty-four. The old filigreed brass plate warmer is rare and quite a conversation piece.

A studio for a free art school opened at the Nineteenth Century Club in 1923. Miss Rosa Lee, daughter of James Lee, appointed Miss Florence McIntyre the director. In 1925 the enrollment was so large that Miss Rosa Lee gave her family's property at 690 Adams to the City to be called the James Lee Memorial Academy of Art. And in 1930 Miss Lee donated the adjoining property, the Noland Fontaine home, to the Academy.



THE MUSIC ROOM

The marble fireplace with the beautiful gold framed mirror is original to the room. The Ceylonese table with a dragon pedestal features a hand carved oriental design on the top and dropped border.

The Stable Theatre, to the rear of the Lee and Fontaine homes, was opened in 1927. The whole area was alive with Art.

In 1930 Mrs. Daniel Grant was chairman of an "Art Carnival to represent Medieval Italy." Miss Daisy was finance chairman, the purpose, to raise money for the James Lee Memorial Academy.

Miss Florence McIntyre remained director until 1942, when she took the Free Art School into her home at 707 Adams. She always received the support of Mrs. Grant and the B.L. Mallorys.

The Art Academy continued in the Lee and Fontaine homes until February 1959. At that time the City intended to tear down these houses. Miss Daisy, Misses Florence and Mildred McIntyre, and Luke Eldridge Wright (grandson of Gen. E. Wright), with the aid of Mrs. Elmer Butler and the then newly formed Memphis Chapter of APTA, raised money and prevailed upon the city fathers to leave these houses. Today they are open to the public in this Victorian Village—the last few remaining reminders of Memphis in a more gracious era.

Frances Mallory Morgan was one of Miss Florence McIntyre's favorite pupils, having won a scholarship in sculpture for three consecutive years at the Grand Central Art School in New York. Frances' best work of sculpture in Memphis is in the Holly Court of Brooks Memorial Art Gallery, and is a monument to her brother, William Neely Mallory. It depicts three graceful figures diving into the water.

Frances delights in recalling human episodes which reflect her mother's charm and wit—"I remember the day during prohibition, two policemen arrived at the house, accusing a houseman of making and selling bootleg something on the place. Mother was insulted and insisted on the officers going to his room to see for themselves. They found his room stacked with bottles with something in them. He confessed. Mother asked the officers if they would like a real drink—took them to the front parlor and served them, and all was forgotten. My father all but had a stroke when he found out. She did have charm."

"She was so wonderful to all the people who worked for her. One chauffeur who was always in trouble, was accused of stabbing a woman. Mother went to the trial to defend and help him, and when the Judge said 'John, where were you Saturday afternoon?' John said, 'I couldn't have stabbed nobody, I was driving Miss Daisy to play poker at Mrs. Frazer's, and she lives a long way from Adams.' John was acquitted. Mother played poker every Saturday afternoon with the same group of old friends until six years before she died. Then there was a Catholic Father from the Christian Brothers College which was up the street from our house. The Father used to come to see Mother in the hope that she would leave the home to the Catholic Church. So one day she said she might consider it if the Father would promise to get her into Heaven. He said, 'I can get you into purgatory, but you will have to get into heaven yourself.' So she poured him another glass of wine and they still remained great friends."

Both of Miss Daisy's sons served as King of Cotton Carnival. Her granddaughter, Claire Mallory MacDonald (Mrs. Blair MacDonald), and grandson, William Neely Mallory, were recent Cotton Rulers.

The happy times were interspersed with sad times too—Miss Pearl's death in 1931, Mr. Mallory in 1938, and William Neely Mallory, Yale football hero, killed in the European theatre at the end of World War II (1945). Mallory Depot, as well as the gymnasium at Southwestern were named for him. There is also a Neely-Mallory scholarship at Southwestern and at Yale. After these sorrows, Miss Daisy depended heavily upon her younger son, Lee. As an ardent sportsman, he supplied her with wild duck, dove, and other game. He was a faithful, daily visitor until her death in 1969.

Miss Daisy continued until her last days, the gracious Victorian Christmas morning Open House, and Mondays at Home to friends.

My first invitation at Christmas was from Annie Bess, who was Miss Daisy's maid and constant companion for fifty-five years. She said, "Miss Pat, sometimes Miss Daisy forgets, so I'm inviting you—and I make the eggnog."

But Miss Daisy did not forget to invite me, and for those last ten years of her life, whenever I was in Memphis, a visit with her was a highlight of my holiday season.





BEDROOM

This bedroom is typical of the remaining eleven bedrooms in the house.

MISS DAISY'S BEDROOM

The upstairs life of the family was centered in this large master bedroom. The half-tester over-size rosewood bed with its matching armoire typifies the finest of the Victorian era.

Chester Lanier, who was for twenty-five years a butler, chauffeur and loyal servant to Mrs. Mallory, continues to work at the house. He vividly recalls many of the events which were traditions in the life of Miss Daisy:

"The Mondays 'at home' were days for friends to drop by

The Wednesday foursome was Mrs. Dillard, Mrs. Walter Lane Smith, Mrs. Allie Patteson and Mrs. Goodbar.

The regular Saturday party was composed of Mrs. C.K. Smith, Mrs. Wilson Mallory, Mrs. Jack Dunscomb, Mrs. Ceylon B. Frazer, Mrs. Frank Milton and Mrs. Gordon Erskine.

The Christmas party was the big event of the year when all of the immediate family and close friends gathered for eggnog and dinner. Eggnog was always prepared by Annie Bess, who was Mrs. Mallory's maid for fifty-five years.

On holidays and birthdays Mrs. Mallory always remembered her servants and workers with a gift.

There will never be another person as thoughtful as Mrs. Mallory was to everybody."





*Mrs. Mallory and children—
William Neely and twins, Frances and Lee.*

MEMPHIS

YESTERDAY — TODAY — TOMORROW

Edward F. Williams III

The Historic Mallory-Neely Home was constructed when Memphis was still a sprawling river village of little more than 8,000 inhabitants. Today the city is populated by almost 700,000 people and covers an area almost 100 times as large as it did in 1852 when Isaac B. Kirtland built his home at 652 Adams Avenue.

Shortly after the house was completed, Memphis underwent its greatest "boom" era. By 1860 the population had nearly tripled to more than 22,000 people and Memphis had become the sixth largest city in the South.

Memphis had always had the potential to become a great city. Even before the Revolutionary War, explorers such as DeSoto, Marquette, Joliet, and LaSalle noted that the commanding heights which towered above the Mississippi River were among the very few suitable future town sites not susceptible to flooding during periods of high water.

Land speculators also noticed this advantage, and in 1783, when the Legislature of North Carolina first allowed the purchase of land in the area that would eventually become West Tennessee, buyers were quick to secure the four Chickasaw bluffs which were the only locations safe from the annual spring crests of the river between Hickman, Kentucky and Vicksburg, Mississippi.

In 1789 John Rice acquired from the Governor of North Carolina the 5,000 acres upon which Memphis was later founded, but he did not live to benefit from his shrewd investment. He was killed by Indians who continued to claim prior rights to the area until they agreed to relinquish them in a treaty negotiated by Andrew Jackson and Isaac Shelby in 1818.

In the meantime a series of military forts had been built on the southern-most bluff which was to become Memphis. The French had come and gone in 1739, followed by the Spanish in 1795 and Americans in 1797. However, even the latter post had been abandoned before settlers began to arrive in 1819 to purchase lots at the new development which Judge John Overton had begun to promote that year.

Overton had acquired the Rice land claim and brought in two partners — Andrew Jackson and General James Winchester, another Tennessean, to help him start development before the owners of the three rival Chickasaw bluffs could begin their own communities. His success in getting the town laid out and partially settled five years ahead of its competitors is one of the most important reasons that Memphis became the dominant trade center of the new frontier. Winchester selected the name for the new town in hopes that it would become the largest city on the Mississippi River, just as its ancient name sake had been the

most important on the Nile. From the earliest days, river traffic played a vital role in the Memphis economy. Steamboats soon found Memphis to be a very convenient place to load cotton, which had been brought from outlying plantations. However, there were other locations which were equally important in this trade, until the depression gripped the United States in 1837. The banks failed at most of the neighboring river towns, but the Farmers and Merchants Bank of Memphis managed to stay in business. Not long thereafter, the cotton merchants from other communities moved down to Memphis to take advantage of its dependable bank. Never again was the future of Memphis threatened by the growth of nearby competing towns.

Railroads followed the move to the fourth Chickasaw bluff and in 1857, the Memphis and Charleston Railroad was completed, linking the Mississippi River direct to the Atlantic Ocean. The western terminal building was constructed just three blocks south of the Mallory-Neely home and stood until its destruction by the Memphis Housing Authority in 1968.

Just as Memphis was enjoying its greatest boom, the Civil War came, and with it occupation by Union troops. However, the City still prospered as it escaped the destruction visited upon the other portions of the South which were not captured until later in the War. Good fortune was not to continue indefinitely. In 1873, 1878, and 1879 a series of yellow fever epidemics swept the Bluff City. Poor sanitary facilities compounded the problem, and Memphis earned a well deserved reputation as a very unhealthy place. Over 10,000 people died during this period, the City Government went bankrupt, and its corporate charter was revoked. For ten years thereafter, Memphis functioned as a taxing district while such elementary public health facilities as sewers and water-mains were finally installed.

By 1890, Memphis was back on its feet, but the next fifteen years saw the development of machine politics, graft and corruption on a large scale. Finally, a reform movement headed by E.H. Crump swept the old regime out of office in 1909, and changed the form of government from a mayor-alderman system to a city commission. The Crump forces operated in an efficient manner, which eventually brought a cleaner, quieter, safer city.

Following Mr. Crump's death in 1954, Memphis underwent a new era of transition. Rapid growth, new industries, new civic edifices, and finally another new form of city government—the mayor-council system, were the most evident signs of change, striving to make Memphis the ideal for which its name is reputed to be an Egyptian synonym—**“place of good abode.”**



October 4, 1974

Daughters-Sons and Children of the American Revolution
 Mallory-Neely House
 652 Adams Avenue
 Memphis, Tennessee 38105

Dear Members:

Please allow me to commend you for your efforts in restoring the Mallory-Neely House. Your progress in the short span of only 21 months is a remarkable achievement. Further, your efforts are directly related to the HERITAGE theme of Bicentennial.

The Mallory-Neely House will be a vital and needed link with the past as we revitalize an important segment of Memphis -- the downtown area. Already on the drawing boards are three significant steps which we feel will effect the renaissance of the city:

(a) The Mid-America Mall will replace Main Street as we know it from Adams Street to McCall. The Mall will be a pedestrian walkway decorated with trees, flowers and greenery.

(b) The elevation of that portion of the present City Island south of the Hernando deSoto Bridge will be raised approximately sixteen feet to make it above river flood stage. This area of approximately forty five acres will become a botanic garden, will be renamed VOLUNTEER ISLAND and will contain the Mississippi River Historic Museum and Volunteer Path (which will trace the great contributions of the citizens of Tennessee in the development of the nation).

(c) The revitalization of the area south and east of the Peabody Hotel is going forward under the auspices of the Beale Street Historic Foundation.

Again, your efforts are appreciated, and we commend you for an active contribution to the overall betterment of our great community.

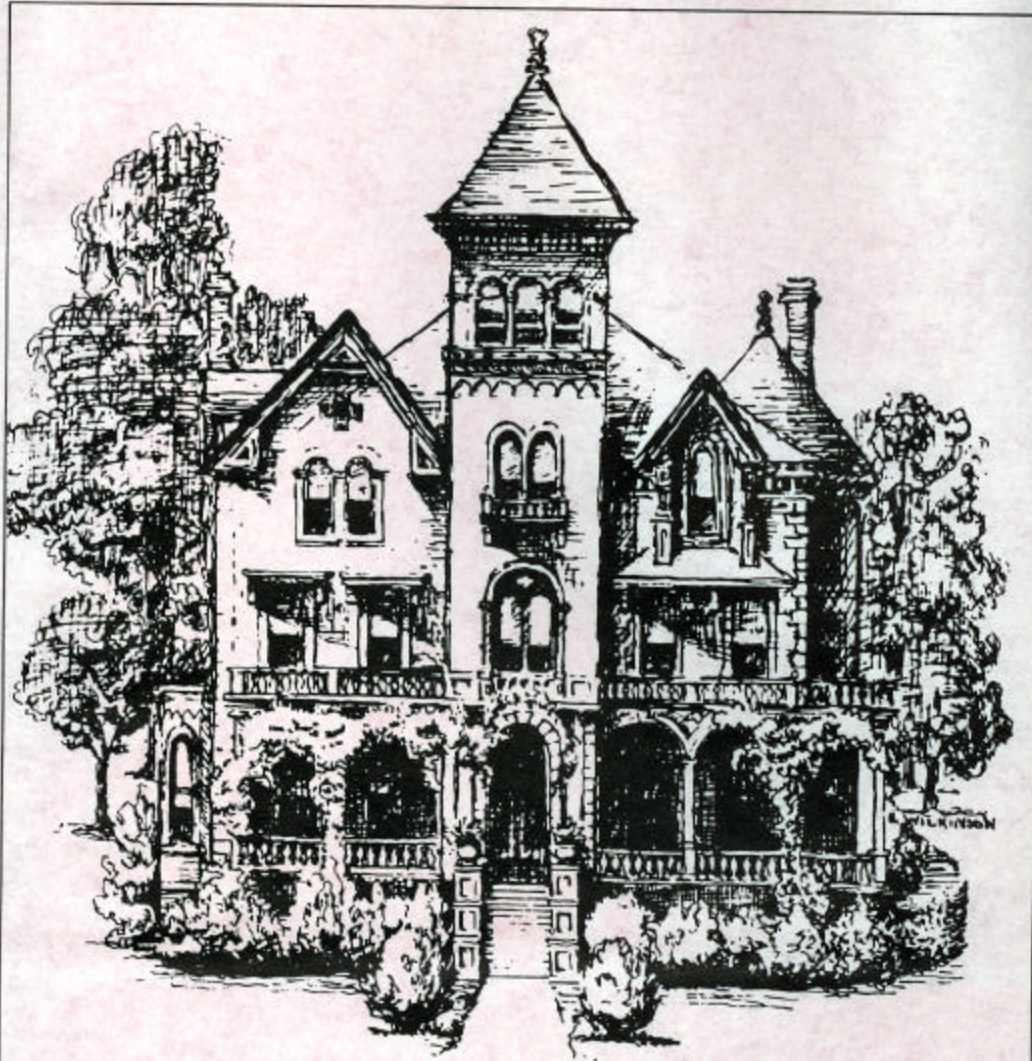
Sincerely,

MEMPHIS BICENTENNIAL COMMISSION

Howard Willey
 Howard Willey
 Chairman

HW:sqh

A Committee Of The Memphis Area Chamber Of Commerce • P. O. Box 224 • Memphis, Tennessee 38101



The Mallory-Neely House



THE MALLORY- NEELY HOUSE

652 ADAMS AVENUE
MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE

Home of the James Columbus Neely
and Barton Lee Mallory Families
Listed on the National Register
of Historic Places
Operated by the Memphis Park
Commission and Memphis Museums, Inc.

The House & Its Furnishings



he property on which the Mallory-Neely House stands was purchased for \$5,500 in 1852 by Isaac Kirtland, president of the Jackson Insurance Company. Soon after, Kirtland began construction of a two-and-a-half story brick and stucco mansion.

Many features of its design, most notably, the square tower which centers the single story front porch, the low gabled roof with wide eaves supported by decorative brackets, and stucco-covered bricks, are indicative of the Italian villa architectural style. In 1864, Kirtland sold the house and one acre of land to Benjamin Babb, a cotton factor, for \$40,000.

James Columbus Neely purchased the property from Babb in 1883 for \$45,000 and in the 1890's began making extensive interior and exterior changes to the house. The cramped half story was expanded to a full third floor, giving the mansion and attached servants' quarters a total of twenty-five rooms.

The greatest changes took place inside. At the 1893 Chicago World's Fair, Neely purchased two elaborate stained glass windows. One was placed in the front door.

To showcase the other, he had the staircase redesigned, creating a new first floor landing with the spectacular window as its focal point.

Many decorative features, such as stenciling, gilding, and parquet flooring—all popular during the High Victorian period—were added. Marble fireplace mantels were replaced with ones of carved mahogany. Wall-to-wall carpeting was installed, new wallpaper was hung, and door jambs embellished with faux-graining and gilding.

Because the home was continuously occupied by Neely's daughter, Frances Neely Mallory, for eighty-six years until her death in 1969, most of the furnishings are original to it.



The parlor

The Neely Family



The James Columbus Neely Family

James Columbus Neely was born near Charlotte, North Carolina, on April 19, 1826. His family moved to Tennessee in 1833, then to Shelby County in 1839. Neely remained on his father's plantation until 1854 when he came to

Memphis to enter the wholesale grocery business. Although the business closed in 1862 when Federal forces occupied Memphis, Neely remained in the city and in 1865 established a new firm Brooks, Neely & Company, wholesale grocers, cotton factors, and commission merchants. (A cotton factor would advance a planter the credit to purchase supplies and labor to plant his cotton crop in return for a mortgage on the planter's land. All cotton produced was then turned over to the factor who arranged for its sale.) Brooks, Neely & Company eventually became one of the most successful enterprises of its type in Memphis.

Neely had married Frances Blocker in 1860. In 1883, they moved their growing family to the stately mansion on Adams Avenue. Neely lived there with his wife and five children—Pearl, Hugh, James, Sidney, and Frances—until his death on January 22, 1901. Mrs. Neely died February 27, 1905.

The Mallory-Family



n November 7, 1900, Frances Neely, affectionately known throughout her life as "Daisy," married Barton Lee Mallory at the First Presbyterian Church in Memphis. Mallory had been born in Charlottesville, Virginia, in 1865 but moved to Memphis as a child. Initially, he worked in his father's wholesale grocery firm, W.B. Mallory and Sons. By 1900, he had become president of the South Memphis Land Company, a company formed to attract new industrial firms to Memphis, that farsightedly acquired extensive land holdings in south Memphis. Mallory also organized the company that became Federal Compress, as well as the Memphis Compress and Storage Company in which the family still retains ownership.

Returning to live in the house on Adams during her father's illness, Daisy and Barton Mallory remained there after his death. They spent their married life and raised their three children—William Neely, and twins Barton Lee, Jr., and Frances—in the mansion. After Mr. Mallory died on April 3, 1938, his widow continued to reside there until her death on July 8, 1969.

Mrs. Mallory was actively involved in the preservation of historic properties. In accordance with her wishes, in 1972 the family deeded the mansion and its furnishings to the Daughters, Sons, and Children of the American Revolution to be preserved as a museum. Due to escalating maintenance and renovation costs, the house was deeded to the City of Memphis in 1984 with management of the property passing to the Memphis Museum System on July 1, 1987.

The Mallory-Neely House is listed on the National Register of Historical Places.



Frances Neely Mallory and children: William Neely, and twins Barton Lee, Jr. and Frances Mallory.

Hours of Operation

Tuesday - Saturday 10:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.
 Sunday 1:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M.

Tours are given on the hour and half hour. The last tour begins at 3:30 p.m. Closed on Mondays, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and during January & February

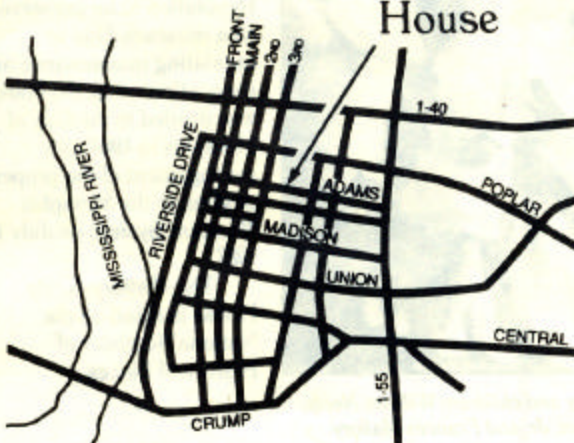
Adults	\$5.00
Children	\$3.00
College Student with current ID	
Senior Adults	\$4.00

Reduced rates are available for groups of ten or more with advance reservations. Several outreach programs are offered to school groups and other interested parties. There is a nominal charge for these programs.

For additional information and group tour reservations call or write:

Program Coordinator
 Mallory-Neely House
 652 Adams Avenue
 Memphis, Tennessee 38105
 (901) 523-1484

The Mallory-Neely House



Join the Memphis Museum System

The Memphis Museum System is an umbrella organization embracing the Memphis Pink Palace Museum and Planetarium, Lichterman Nature Center, Magevney House, and Mallory-Neely House. For more information about joining the Museum System please call 320-6320. Membership benefits include the following:

1. Free access to the Pink Palace Museum and Planetarium, Lichterman Nature Center, Magevney House, and Mallory-Neely House.
2. One year subscription to our informative newsletters, MUSEUMSCOPE and QUEST.
3. Discounts on workshops and field schools at all four facilities.
4. 10% discount on purchases over \$10.00 at the Pink Palace Museum, Lichterman Nature Center and Mallory-Neely House gift shops.
5. Discounts on special programs.
6. Invitations to "Members Only" parties for new exhibits.