A Busy Day & Night for AUB

The high winds that blew through the Athens area during the day on Saturday and Saturday night brought down numerous trees and tree limbs, resulting in widespread power outages. The photos below from AUB show a tree across power lines on Cook Drive and AUB workers putting the finishing touch on a power pole that had to be replaced on Watson Street.

Radio Club Wins Pay It Forward

The McMinn County Amateur Radio Club has received a $1,000 Pay It Forward Award from Bowater Credit Union. The Credit Union asked its members to nominate their favorite non-profit in the five counties it serves. Bill Luecken nominated the Amateur Radio Club for its work in providing emergency communications. He pointed out that when the tornado hit McMinn County in November 2016, the club’s radio repeater network was the only communication system capable of county-wide communications. Bowater Credit Union also gave a $1,000 award to Isaiah 117 House in Bradley County. The photo from Kim Gunter shows: (L-R) Bill Luecken, Gary Eiff (Amateur Radio Club President), his wife, Mary Ann Eiff, Steve Rickerson (Radio Club Vice President), & Tiffany Barnes (Bowater CU Athens Branch Manager)
Another Moment of History

The Keith Mansion on Keith Lane in Athens is one of McMinn County’s most well-known historic homes. Built just prior to the Civil War the house was the home of Alexander and Sarah Fore Keith. It was the center of a huge farm of hundreds of acres that was at the time on the outskirts of Athens.

The Keith house was actually the second brick home on the site, the first built in 1835 for Dr. Augustine Fore. Dr. Fore died in 1847, and the house burned in April 1856. In 1858, his son-in-law Alexander Keith built a new home, which we know today as the Keith House. The home was designed by Thomas Crutchfield, and the brick was hand-made on site by slaves.

During the winter of 1864, thousands of Union troops camped around the house and farm, damaging many of the farm buildings and the house itself. In 1938, a smaller front porch was removed and the great four-columned porch was added, and much of the house was remodeled with modern utilities.

The house remained in the Keith family until the late 20th century, and is today our most recognized historic home.

(These McMinn County History Minutes are written by County Historian and Sheriff, Joe Guy. They are also aired daily on WYXI Radio, AM-1390 and FM 94.5)