

BELLE MEADE HISTORIC SITE

By Savannah Catron



WHAT DOES BELLE MEADE HISTORIC SITE AND WINERY HAVE?

- The Tours
 - Mansion tour
 - Journey to Jubilee
 - Battle at Belle Meade
 - Grounds pass
 - Slave Cabin
 - Dairy
 - Garden and Gardener's house
 - Old Harding Cabin
 - Mausoleum
 - Stables and Carriage House
-



GOALS

- Tell the story of the Harding-Jackson Family
 - Share what the slaves that worked there did
 - What happened to slaves after freed
 - What was the land like at the beginning of the plantation
 - How the house came to be preserved
-



THESIS AND BIASES

- The mission statement for the site makes it clear that they want to tell and preserve all the history that happened there.
 - They say that they are committed to telling the full story, including the lives of the people that were enslaved there.
 - They also say that they want to acknowledge the Native Americans that called Tennessee home.
 - Through the tour of the mansion and the self-guided walking tour of the grounds, it seems that there are not any clear biases.
 - They cover a lot about the women who lived here, African American and white.
 - All the topics and people that the tours cover reflect the subjects in a positive light.
-

The photograph captures the interior of a museum exhibit dedicated to the history of the Underground Railroad. The room is characterized by its rustic, historical aesthetic, with walls and ceiling constructed from wide wooden planks. The floor is also made of wood, showing signs of age and wear. Along the left and back walls, several large informational panels are displayed. These panels contain text, historical photographs, and illustrations. The visible panel titles include 'TRADE', 'EARLY YEARS OF ENSLAVEMENT', 'EXPANSION OF SLAVERY', 'SLAVERY AT BELL MEADE', and 'SLAVERY AND THE CIVIL WAR'. In the center of the room, a large, dark wooden chest with a curved lid stands prominently. To the right, a simple wooden bench is positioned against the wall. The lighting is soft and even, highlighting the historical artifacts and the architectural details of the space.



WHAT WAS BELLE MEADE AT ITS BEGINNING?

- Purchased in 1807
- Started as just a small cabin
- Grew to dogtrot style cabin
- John Harding starts racing horses and breeding horses
- Within 4 years of being a stud farm the mansion is constructed
- Soon the Hardings have a big stud plantation

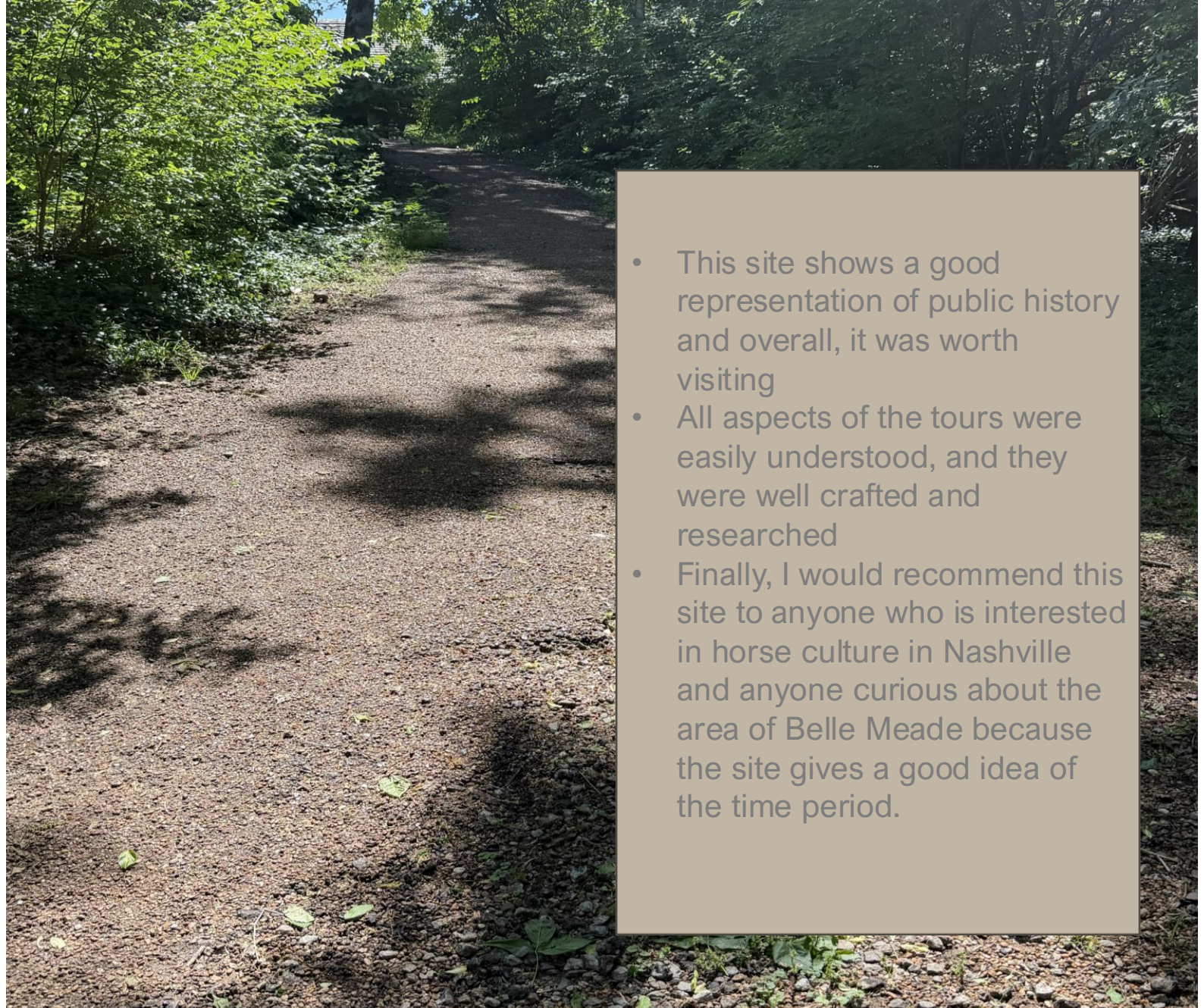


WHAT DOES THE GIFT SHOP TELL ABOUT THIS SITE?



OVERALL THOUGHTS

- Covered the topic well and discussed all aspects of the site
- Overall, the site taught me of the many ways to represent all the people that lived and worked on a site
- Each location, starting with the mansion, includes the reference about the time period and what it was like then. It also covers what impact these people made on the site.



- This site shows a good representation of public history and overall, it was worth visiting
- All aspects of the tours were easily understood, and they were well crafted and researched
- Finally, I would recommend this site to anyone who is interested in horse culture in Nashville and anyone curious about the area of Belle Meade because the site gives a good idea of the time period.