

## **Charlotte Brown and her miniature “Charlottetown”**

(As published in *The Oak Ridger’s Historically Speaking* column on June 30, 2014)

Charlotte Brown has created a miniature community she affectionately has named “Charlottetown.” It includes, among other small but lifelike structures, a small-scale general store, church, grist mill, two barns and multiple cabins. The lifelike characteristics are amazing!

Many of the structures come to life with strategically placed lighting, small accessories and even small people as well as some small animals. The buildings vary in size but are generally less than three feet tall. They are constructed to visual accuracy. When you look at them you immediately realize she has an eye for artistic expression that is unique and naturally well developed. Each creation is eye catching.

When you look inside the small well-proportioned buildings, the furniture and other accessories make you feel as if you could just walk right in there and sit and talk with the little people. Charlotte does not draw plans, she does not measure very many of the dimensions. Just by using her innate “eye for exactness” she assembles each miniature home, store, church or barn.

Many of Charlotte’s miniature furnishing come from antique shops she scours in search of just the right accessory for the building she is creating at the time. The items she has picked up includes rocking chairs, rugs, oil lamps, trees and stoves, all miniatures. She adds ivy, moss and aged hay to the scenes to make the buildings look realistic both inside and out.

I was fortunate enough to be invited by Charlotte to visit her home and workshop where she creates the masterpieces. The time I spent with her was magical. She is so engaged in her craft. It is a passion for her. She said, “The first cabin I built from a vision I had in my mind for twenty years. Despite the fact that I knew nothing about working with wood, I was determined to build that cabin I had envisioned.

Charlotte continued, “It took me eight months to complete that first cabin. I learned how to construct by just working through the process. The visions of other cabins kept coming to me and five years later I have created and completed 25 different cabin designs.”

When asked which of her creations she considers her favorite, Charlotte responded, “My favorites are the General Store and the Mansion.” However, I know that each of her cabins has a unique character and so much detail in every aspect of its construction. When I saw the cabins at her home my first reaction was one of disbelief. The cabins are all very unique and amazing.

Charlotte has had a “Charlottetown” exhibit at the Art Display at McGee Tyson Airport. She has also shown at the Delta Art Show and she has another art show scheduled in July. If you hear of “Charlotte Town” miniature community on display, you won’t want to miss seeing them. You too will look with disbelief when you first see them and with even more amazement when you look inside the cabins at the wonderful and loving details Charlotte has included.

When Charlotte began, she kept her work a secret for three years before bringing the collection out for the public to see and letting her friends know what she had been doing with all her time. She constantly thinks of new designs

When asked what her goal was with the work she puts into these cabins, she replied, “My ultimate goal is to make my town an event in vacation resort so that people all over the world can see and enjoy my work.” What a tremendous adventure Charlotte has embarked on. No wonder she wants the world to see her work, everyone she shows “Charlottetown” has the same response...they declare it as amazing!

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Charlotte said, “The visions that I have had for twenty year became so intense that I was driven to build what I saw in my mind and I had no idea that it would evolve into such a huge project five years later. I believe that I was given the gift to create this amazing little town just as others are given gifts to excel with different talent.” I agree! Charlotte Brown is certainly talented...

Charlotte has agreed to build a replica from her mind of how she thinks the John Hendrix cabin might have looked. She will loan it to the Y-12 History Center for display. I am anxious to get a special place created to showcase this wonderful lady’s talent and to add to the mystic of the legend of John Hendrix, the “Prophet of Oak Ridge.” One of her amazing cabins will certainly be a welcome addition to the museum.

If you would like to contact Charlotte Brown about Charlottetown, her email address is: [brownc153@aol.com](mailto:brownc153@aol.com) and her phone number is: 865-216-9202.



Charlotte Brown – creator of “Charlottetown”

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Charlotte Brown, artist, with the church she built for “Charlottetown”



The interior detail of the church



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Charlotte Brown in her workshop as she puts the finishing touches on another building for “Charlottetown”



A two story cabin with the family and other miniature accessories...notice the inviting rocking chair on the porch

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Charlotte Brown with her vision of the “John Hendrix” cabin