



TENNESSEE HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes

February 21, 2025

The Tennessee Historical Commission (THC) met virtually on MS TEAMS for its regularly scheduled meeting. *The attachments referenced herein were sent to the Commission along with the agenda, prior to the meeting date.*

Members present were Chair Sam Elliott, Beth Campbell, Beverly Robertson, James Kay, Jr., Loni Harris, Doris McMillan, Reggie Mudd, Dan Pomeroy, Ray Smith, Dr. Tim Smith, and Laura Todd, Kelley Wolfe, Susan Williams. Ex-Officio members present were State Archeologist Phil Hodge, TDEC Representative, Hobart Akin, State Archivist Jamie Ritter, Governor's Representative, Ben Silverman and State Historian, Dr. Carroll Van West. Members absent included Ambassador Victor Ashe and Dr. Warren Dockter.

Staff present were Executive Director and State Historic Preservation Officer, Patrick McIntyre; Attorney, Miranda Christy; Historic Preservation Specialist Program Director, Dan Brown; Historic Sites Program Coordinator, Bobby Cooley, Tennessee Heritage Protection Act (THPA) and Outreach Coordinator, Caty Dirksen; Cemetery Preservation Program Director, Graham Perry; Administrative Secretary Barbara Grissom, and Fiscal Officer and Grants Administrator, Laura Ragan.

Mr. Chairman called the meeting to order and informed that votes would be conducted by roll call. Ms. Grissom called the roll. A quorum was deemed present.

A. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Sam Elliott welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained some housekeeping rules for the virtual meeting. He expressed regret that the weather did not cooperate for the in-person meeting scheduled in Paris, TN. Mr. Chairman thanked Pairs Mayor Kathy Ray and Commission members Dr. Tim Smith and Laura Todd for preparing for our visit and hope to meet there soon.

1. Determination of Necessity

Attorney Miranda Christy read the Determination of Necessity to conduct the meeting electronically. Each member received this as part of the meeting packet (Attachment A.1). Mr. Chairman asked for a motion to adopt.

Motion

Ray Smith moved to adopt the resolution. Beth Campbell seconded. A roll call vote was taken. The motion carried unanimously. Yeas: Campbell, Kay, Elliott, Harris, McMillian, Mudd, Pomeroy, R. Smith, T. Smith, Todd, Williams, Wolfe.

B. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chairman Elliott noted that this portion of the meeting is dedicated to public comments, with each speaker allotted three minutes. Tom Bennett from the American Battlefield Trust and Tennessee Civil War Preservation addressed the Commission. Mr. Bennett provided an update on their efforts in securing funding for the Battlefield Trust. He highlighted the success they have had in Tennessee, largely due to the establishment of the Tennessee Civil War Sites Preservation Fund in 2013. This fund received money from increases in the real estate transfer tax, which had been rising over the years, allowing the fund to grow. However, Mr. Bennett pointed out that this year there was no increase in funding. He also mentioned that the American Battlefield Trust has been able to provide matching funds through the American Battlefield Protection Program in Washington, DC. He noted that approximately \$2 million remains unallocated in the Tennessee Civil War Sites Preservation Fund and emphasized that the Trust has identified around 2,000 acres that currently need protection. Mr. Bennett seeks to engage Commissioners with connections in the House, Senate, or Governor's office to advocate for funding. They are requesting \$3,000,000.

C. MINUTES

Chair-Elect Elliott referred to the meeting minutes of October 20, 2024 (*Attachment C1*). The minutes were provided prior to the meeting.

Motion

Dan Pomeroy asked for a motion to accept the October 20, 2024, meeting minutes with the addition under the Foundation section that "there was a committee of the former board that investigated this issue, and it was under the umbrella of that committee that our approach was made to a non-profit. It was the recommendation of that committee to proceed with the dissolution of the foundation." Sam Elliott seconded. No discussion ensued. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carried. Yeas: Campbell, Kay, Harris, McMillian, Mudd, Pomeroy, R. Smith, T. Smith, Todd, Williams, Wolfe.

D. TENNESSEE HERITAGE PROTECTION ACT

Chairman Elliott informed the Commission that a report from the city of Chattanooga regarding the Heritage Protection Act is due (*Attachment D1*). Mr. Blythe Bailey from Chattanooga Parks

and Outdoors then addressed the Commission. He began by providing a brief presentation and background for new members before delivering his update.

Due to major renovations at Patton Square in Chattanooga's center, the city was granted a petition to temporarily store the veterans' monuments previously located there. Tasked by both the previous and current Mayor, Mr. Bailey worked with the Veterans Memorial Park Committee to establish a new location that would appropriately honor all veterans from Chattanooga and across the country. They have decided on a new site on the north shore of the river. This is immediately adjacent to our existing Renaissance Park. Congressman Chuck Schumer introduced earmark funding to support the waterfront development. We are in the budget process now and expect to know more when the budget process finishes towards the end of June. Before that time, we're going to use money we already have and some foundation support to initiate the design process.

Motion

Ray Smith motioned to request Mr. Bailey to come back in February 2027 to provide an update on the design, construction funding, and a more detailed schedule for the new Veterans Plaza on the North Shore side of Chattanooga. Beth Campbell seconded the motion. A roll call vote commenced. Yeas: Campbell, Kay, Harris, McMillian, Mudd, Pomeroy, R. Smith, T. Smith, Todd, Williams and Wolfe. Abstain: Elliot. Motion passed.

E. FINANCE

Susan Williams, Chair of the Finance Committee, presented the financial statement for the fiscal year beginning July 1 through December 31, 2024, detailing expenses and encumbrances (*Attachment E1*). She noted that state funds, including the Civil War Preservation Fund grant, had not yet been received. Mr. McIntyre explained that the significant and unusual negative balance was due to the high revenue from the previous year being allocated to projects that were expected to close by last year but are instead closing this fiscal year. This delay, especially with real estate transactions related to the Civil War Preservation Fund grants, can create the appearance of a negative balance.

Motion

Committee Chair Susan Williams motioned to approve the financial report. Dan Pomeroy seconded. A roll call vote was taken. Yeas: Campbell, Elliott, Kay, Harris, McMillian, Mudd, Pomeroy, Robertson, R. Smith, T. Smith, Williams and Wolfe. Motion passed unanimously. Following the roll-call vote, Beverly Robertson mentioned that she joined the meeting shortly after the financial report presentation began. Chairman Elliott acknowledged her presence and requested that she be officially recorded as present.

Patrick McIntyre presented the Budget Update for FY 2025-2026. He shared that he began his week at the General Assembly during the house budget hearing at the Finance, Ways and Means Committee on Tuesday. This year's budget proposal includes a small cut of \$45,000 from our \$500,000 annual State Historic Sites Maintenance Fund, as outlined in the governor's budget. We have submitted requests for several capital projects: \$20 million for work at Ducktown, \$21

million for a new visitor center at Marble Springs, and \$1.2 million for access improvements and parking at Alex Haley. Additionally, we requested a cultural resources conservator position on the state side. As our state operations have expanded, we lack the second-level supervisory role that exists on the federal program side. Unfortunately, the supervisory position request was not funded. The THC Senate Budget Hearing will take place before the state and local government on March 18th at 10:30 a.m. The reauthorization legislation for the Tennessee Historical Commission and the Tennessee Wars Commission has been scheduled for Senate government operations on Wednesday, February 26th at 8:30 a.m. Mr. McIntyre mentioned he would send out further information to the Commission and encouraged anyone interested to come down to show support. I've been asked to provide a brief presentation of two or three minutes on our activities and possibly report any updates to the audit report. Ray Smith and Jim Kay said they would check their calendars for availability to attend the hearing.

F. AUDIT COMMITTEE

Chairman Elliott clarified that after the October meeting, he mistakenly believed that the chairman appoints the audit committee. However, the members of the committee themselves must elect the audit committee. The charter stipulates that there should traditionally be three members from each of the Grand Divisions. He asked for volunteers. Discussion ensued. Reggie Mudd, Beverly Robertson, and Sam Elliott expressed their willingness to serve, with Reggie Mudd assuming the role of chairman.

Motion

Beverly Robertson moved to nominate herself, Sam Elliott, and Reggie Mudd for the Audit Committee, with Reggie Mudd as chair. Lonnie Harris seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. A roll call vote was taken. Yeas: Campbell, Elliott, Kay, Harris, McMillian, Mudd, Pomeroy, Robertson, R. Smith, T. Smith, Williams and Wolfe. Motion passed unanimously.

G. PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE

Chairman Sam Elliott reported for the Publications Committee. Mr. McIntyre and staff sent out the information regarding the book award, which pertains to a plantation in West Tennessee. The awarded book is titled *The Realms of Oblivion, An Excavation of the Davies Manor Historic Site's Omitted Stories* by Andrew C. Ross, published by Vanderbilt Press. Dr. Van West mentioned that as State Historian, he assisted the author in developing the manuscript and conducting research, as they aimed to apply the findings to historic preservation. He also mentioned that the book is not only intended for readers interested in Tennessee history, but can also be utilized in college-level courses. He uses the book in his class at Middle Tennessee State University. Mrs. Wynn noted the book was mentioned in the Summer issue of the Courier.

H. HISTORIC SITES COMMITTEE

Beth Campbell, Chair of the Historic Sites Committee, presented their report (*Attachment H1*). She began by expressing her gratitude to everyone on the committee. They had convened two

weeks prior to the full commission meeting. Ms. Campbell collaborated with Dan Brown, Historic Sites Program Director, and Bobby Cooley, Historic Sites Program Coordinator, to reorganize the presentation of the sites. The new format involves addressing each grand division individually, taking questions after each, and then moving on to the next.

Mrs. Campbell introduced Dan Brown, Historic Sites Program Director, to provide the Historic Sites update. Mr. Dan Brown recognized the site representatives present at the meeting and reviewed his report. Those present included the president of Sam Houston Memorial Association, Bill Cabbage, representing the Sam Houston Historic Schoolhouse State Historic Site; Matt Frye, Co-Director, Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site, Kyle Dickson, Marble Springs State Historic Site; and representing Alex Haley House Museum & Interpretive Center State Historic Site, Richard Griffin, Museum Director. Each site represented gave brief updates on their management of these THC sites. Mr. Brown reported that the Tennessee Historical Commission is currently experiencing its busiest phase ever for capital projects. With approximately \$40 million in progress, he expressed his excitement about being involved during this period. For him, it is one of the most enjoyable points of his career, given the variety of interesting and wonderful projects. Despite some challenges with the Burra Burra project due to unsuccessful bids, efforts are being made to pare down the project and put it back out to bid in the spring. The Tipton-Haynes project is around 50% complete, and the Sabine Hill Visitors Center is fully designed, with contract documents now in progress. Mr. Brown paused to take questions about the East Tennessee sites. Mrs. Campbell, noting there were no questions about any of the East Tennessee Sites, requested Mr. Brown to continue with Middle Tennessee sites. Mr. Brown reported that the Rock Castle project, the largest in the history of the agency at \$11.3 million, is ready to take off and is very busy. They are currently installing specialized lumber that will be part of the interior, with inspections scheduled for next week. The project is progressing well. The \$8.8 million Cragfont Site has completed its design phase and is expected to go out to bid soon. At Carter House, excavation is set to begin, marking significant progress for a project that has been in the works for over a decade. Mr. Brown paused to take questions about the Middle Tennessee sites. Mrs. Campbell, noting there were no questions about any of the Middle Tennessee Sites, requested Mr. Brown to continue with West Tennessee sites. Mr. Brown reported that there are currently no projects at Alex Haley House Museum & Interpretive Center in scope development. He mentioned a half-million-dollar project to address issues of degradation at Sabine Hill, which is experiencing some problems. They are in the process of preparing contract documents, with the goal of going out to bid later this year.

Mr. Brown inquired if the commission had reviewed the report from Landmark Facilities Group by Jim Thompson regarding the HVAC system at Cragfont, which was completed as a complimentary service. Mr. Brown then paused to allow for questions on West Tennessee sites or the Cragfont report. Dan Pomeroy questioned what do we need to do now regarding the Cragfont report? Are we proceeding with the study, and do we have the budget for it? Committee Chairman Campbell stated it was the wishes of the committee that we move forward with the

project and have also been in talks with several of the legislators that represent Sumner County. They are all for it. I would like for us to take the next steps. Discussion followed. It was decided Dan Brown will work with Mr. McIntyre on logistics, make a report to the Historic Sites committee and the committee will report back to the full commission on its findings.

Mr. Bobby Cooley, Historic Sites Program Coordinator, delivered his report (*Attachment H₁*). This winter he took time to visit each site and conduct a maintenance survey to all the sites. Repairs were done sites in each grand division. Mr. Cooley provided an overview of major maintenance and emergency repairs in each grand division.

Mrs. Campbell inquired if anyone had opinions on the bills sent by Ms. Christy regarding the legislature. Chairman Sam Elliott stated for the record that no action would be taken on the matter because it was not on the agenda. He mentioned that he sensed a consensus within the committee and, therefore, the committee would not be represented as taking action on this issue.

I. MONUMENTS AND MARKERS

Ray Smith, Chair of the Monuments and Markers Committee, presented their report. (*Attachment I₁*) He expressed his gratitude to the committee members for their dedication. They successfully convened and reviewed eight markers, which were approved with valuable input from both the staff and committee members.

Motion

Ray Smith moved to accept the eight markers that have been recommended by the committee. Lonnie Harris seconded. A roll call vote was taken and markers one through eight were approved. Yeas: Campbell, Elliott, Kay, Harris, McMillian, Mudd, Pomeroy, Robertson, R. Smith, T. Smith, Todd, Williams.

J. TENNESSEE WARS COMMISSION

Laura Todd, Chair of the Tennessee Wars Commission, presented their report (*Attachment J₁*). She expressed her gratitude to each committee member for their service. The committee convened on February 13th to discuss the proposed projects listed in the packet. Mrs. Todd indicated that Nina Scall, Tennessee Wars Commission Program Director, would provide a brief description of the projects recommended for approval. They proposed that the projects listed under the Tennessee Wars Commission Grant Fund be reviewed and voted on separately from the six projects under the Civil War Sites Preservation Fund. Mrs. Scall provided an overview of the grant requirements and noted all of these will be simple acquisitions with the Historical Commission as the easement holder. Mrs. Scall individually reviewed the six projects for approval. Lengthy discussion ensued. She stated we are asking the Commission to approve \$1,935,250 in Civil War Sites Preservation Grant Funds. For potential conflicts of interest, Jim Kay removed himself from the meeting while this portion was being discussed.

Motion

Laura Todd moved to accept the six projects in the Civil War Preservation Grant Funds that have been recommended by the committee. Dan Pomeroy seconded. A roll call vote was taken.

Projects one through six were approved. Yeas: Campbell, Elliott, Kay, Harris, McMillian, Mudd, Pomeroy, Robertson, R. Smith, T. Smith, Todd, Williams.

Laura Todd informed the committee of four projects under the Tennessee Wars Commission Grants for review. Mrs. Scall outlined the grant qualifications and described the applicants' needs. She stated we are asking the Commission to approve all four projects to a total of \$114,500. Discussion ensued.

Motion

Laura Todd moved to accept the four projects under the Tennessee Wars Commission Grants. Lonnie Harris seconded. A roll call vote was taken. All four projects were approved.

Yeas: Campbell, Elliott, Kay, Harris, McMillian, Mudd, Pomeroy, Robertson, R. Smith, T. Smith, Todd, Williams.

Mr. Kay rejoined the meeting after a 10-minute reprieve.

K. HISTORIC CEMETERY PROGRAM

Graham Perry provided his report (*Attachment K1*) prior to the meeting for review. He offered a brief overview of the Historic Cemetery Program, mentioning that this quarter saw a steady stream of cemeteries being added to the Historic Cemetery Register. Perry highlighted St. Jude's commendable actions regarding Winchester Cemetery in Memphis, where they committed to relocating 45 graves to Elmwood following an archaeological survey. He also announced that the Historic Cemetery Program workshop led by Johnathan Appell at Willow Springs Cemetery in Shelbyville, Tennessee, in November 2024, was attended by 40 participants. Perry and Appell are planning another workshop in Union City in late March. The committee is currently discussing recommendations for the upcoming five-year report. Perry noted his multiple site visits and ongoing public speaking engagements as requested.

L. FEDERAL PROGRAMS REPORT

Mr. McIntyre submitted the Federal Programs Report compiled by Holly Barnett, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer. (*Attachment L1*) He directed their attention towards the National Register nominations and listings that had been received during the prior review period. The multiple property forms from Sea Rock City Barns were approved during this period, as well as the first Sea Rock City Barn in Cumberland County, which is now listed on the National Register. We now have a total of 303 districts with \$45,739 in resources listed on the National Register. This year, the Federal Historic Preservation Grant allocation amounts to \$800,000. He also highlighted Section 106 review and compliance efforts. Between September 1st and December 31st, staff reviewed 861 projects, with 638 found to have no proper historic properties. He then recognized Peggy Nickell and the survey program on the digitization survey work.

M. THE FOUNDATION

Chairman Elliott noted that the issue has been a persistent challenge for a couple of years. Some of the veteran members of the board convened about a month to six weeks ago and decided to propose the dissolution of the foundation to the Commission. Mrs. Christy has been liaising with

the Attorney General's office, as dissolving a foundation requires their approval. Mr. Chairman expressed confidence in obtaining this approval. A lengthy discussion followed concerning what to do with the remaining funds. The former chairman secured a gift of \$10,000, however with the foundation dissolving, Ms. Jones has requested its return. This leaves approximately \$22,000 to be allocated. The foundation was initially established to raise and hold funds for the removal, re-erection, and cleaning of the Battle of Nashville Monument. A moderate estimate of \$10,000 would suffice for these purposes, leaving a balance of \$12,000.

Motion

Susan Williams moved to return \$10,000 to Ms. Jones following the dissolution of the THC Foundation. Laura Todd seconded the motion. A roll call vote was conducted. Yeas: Campbell, Harris, McMillian, Mudd, Pomeroy, R. Smith, T. Smith, Todd, and Williams; Abstained - Kay and Elliott. The motion was carried.

Motion

Susan Williams moved to divide the remaining \$12,000 from the THC Foundation between the Battle of Nashville Trust Inc. for monument preservation or restoration, and the Tennessee Civil War Preservation Association. Laura Todd seconded. Yeas: Campbell, Harris, McMillian, Mudd, Pomeroy, R. Smith, T. Smith, Todd, and Williams; Abstained - Kay and Elliott. The motion was carried.

N. MERIT AWARDS COMMITTEE

Laura Todd, Chair of the Merit Awards Committee, presented her report and expressed gratitude to the committee members including staff Caty Dirksen, Outreach Coordinator, for their contributions. The committee convened on January 15 to evaluate the nominations. Mrs. Todd asked Ms. Dirksen to provide a list of the eight nominations reviewed, with a recommendation to approve five of them across two categories. She then invited Caty to elaborate on the recommendations. The merit awards will remain confidential until the Historic Preservation Month in May, and any discussion on the nominations is welcome, or the committee can choose to adopt the recommendations as a whole.

Motion

Beth Campbell moved to adopt the five nominations across two categories. Lonnie Harris seconded the motion. Yeas: Campbell, Elliott, Kay, Harris, McMillian, Mudd, Pomeroy, Robertson, R. Smith, T. Smith, Todd, Williams. Motion carried.

O. OTHER BUSINESS

1. Ratification of Vice Chair Position for Middle Tennessee

After reviewing the recording in connection with preparing the minutes, it was noted that the State Historian Dr. Van West, who is a non-voting member of the Commission, made the nomination.

Motion

Sam Elliott motioned to ratify the vote for Doris McMillian as Vice Chair for Middle Tennessee. Reggie Mudd seconded. A roll call vote was taken. Yeas: Campbell, Kay,

Elliott, Harris, McMillan, Mudd, Robertson, Pomeroy, R. Smith, T. Smith, Todd, and Williams. Motion approved unanimously.

2. Report on THC Resolutions, 2004-2024

Mr. McIntyre presented research he conducted on resolutions honoring individuals over the past 20 years. Resolutions were typically bestowed as memorials for former members upon their passing and/or former chairs were recognized with thank you during board meetings, but no formal resolutions were found unless they were memorials. An early resolution included requesting proper access to the historic Kirby farmhouse in Germantown. Dr. Mitchell was also recognized, showing varied ways of honoring service in the past. Mr. Pomeroy remarked that everyone is aware of the significant time and effort dedicated to this voluntary work. He suggested that establishing a standard practice for resolutions of thanks would be beneficial but emphasized the need for consistent guidelines to avoid any inconsistencies. Chairman Elliott appointed an ad-hoc committee to research practices of other groups. The committee includes one member from each Grand Division: Sam Elliott, Dan Pomeroy, and Lonnie Harris.

3. Memorial Resolution for Ernie Bacon

Chairman Sam Elliott proposed a memorial resolution of the Tennessee Historical Commission on behalf of former Commission Board member Ernie Bacon, who died recently. Chairman Elliott read the resolution. He asked for a motion to adopt.

Motion

Doris McMillian motioned to adopt the Memorial Resolution honoring former Commission Board member Ernie Bacon. Lonnie Harris seconded. Discussion on the impact Erin Bacon had on the state of Tennessee followed. A roll call vote was taken. Yeas: Campbell, Kay, Elliott, Harris, McMillan, Mudd, Pomeroy, R. Smith, T. Smith, Todd, Williams. Motion approved unanimously.

4. Memorial Resolution for Ridley Wills, II

Chairman Sam Elliott proposed a memorial resolution of the Tennessee Historical Commission on behalf of former Commission Board member Ridley Wills, II, who died recently. Chairman Elliott read the resolution. He asked for a motion to adopt.

Motion

Beth Campbell motioned to adopt the Memorial Resolution honoring Commissioner member Ridley Willis, II. Doris McMillian seconded. Discussion on the impact Ridley Willis, II had on the state of Tennessee followed. A roll call vote was taken. Yeas: Campbell, Kay, Elliott, Harris, McMillan, Mudd, Pomeroy, R. Smith, T. Smith, Todd, Williams. Motion approved unanimously.

5. Report from State Archaeologist

State Archaeologist Phil Hodge gave his report. He noted at the end of January; we held our annual Current Research in Tennessee Archaeology Conference. He extend his

gratitude to Jamie Ritter for providing the conference space at the Tennessee State Library and Archives. It was a great event with almost 20 papers and presentations on a range of archaeological research projects, covering both prehistoric and historic sites across the state. We continue our work in the Division of Archaeology with the Tennessee State Parks on planning for a new state park. One of the new parks proposed in Governor Lee's conservation strategy will be the third state archaeological park in the system, located at Cardwell Mountain in Warren County. The planning for that is underway, and we are conducting extensive surveys in anticipation of the new visitor center and other amenities for the park. This ensures that the resources are protected and avoided during the development of the park. We have also had a couple of fieldwork projects since the last Historic Commission meeting at state historic sites. Dan Brock from my office monitored some water line and utility improvements at Tipton Haynes and also did some work at Carter House in anticipation of the upcoming project there. A few of the research projects we have going on include finishing fieldwork at the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) camp at Pickwick Landing State Park. This marks our third investigation of CCC camps within Tennessee State Parks, following previous work at Montgomery Bell in 2020 and 2021, and Norris Dam. It is worth mentioning that the Montgomery Bell project was funded through a historic preservation grant from the Commission, which catalyzed subsequent CCC studies across the State Park system. They are reanalyzing some prehistoric ceramics from Pins and Mounds in light of new research findings. The focus is on the ceramics from Ozuremail, one of the significant mounds at Penson. They are catching up on some legacy work related to the collections from Red Clay State Historic Park. This is the last seat of Cherokee government before removal. They are currently working to catalogue and analyze the artifacts discovered when the park was developed in the 1970s.

Additional updates:

A research project was initiated to examine the effects of prescribed fire on archaeological sites. This land management strategy is commonly used in our state natural areas, yet its impact on archaeological sites has not been thoroughly assessed. Hence, we are conducting research on this topic as an applied project. We are also collaborating with the State Historic Preservation Office and the Commission to review projects related to Hurricane Helene cleanup, recovery, and restoration in Upper East Tennessee. The team meets weekly to ensure these projects progress swiftly while considering potential impacts on archaeological resources that could be affected.

6. Report from State Historian

Dr. West provided a brief overview of his report (Attachment O₆) sent by e-mail during the meeting. He added the only addition is regarding a new partnership between the Center for Historic Preservation and the Library of Congress. This collaboration, approved in late January, signifies that our teaching with primary sources program, which has reached numerous schools and children in Tennessee, will now extend throughout the Southern United States. The Library of Congress established three new regional programs this year.

The American Historical Association will lead one program in the Northern Southern Region, covering Virginia, North Carolina, and Maryland. Another program in the Midwest is headed by the National Council for Historic Preservation the National Council of History Education. We are particularly proud that here in the South, the Center for Historic Preservation at Middle Tennessee State University will lead the initiative. The work in Tennessee over the past 17 years will now expand to include eight southern states, excluding Texas but encompassing all other states south and east of Tennessee. This is a significant accomplishment for us and MTSU, as it facilitates dialogue between Tennessee educators and their southern counterparts.

7. Report from State Archivist

Jamie Ritter, State Archivist, provided a brief report. He mentioned that the new meeting room space has become quite popular as more people learn about it. The State Museum, in collaboration with the Bicentennial Mall, plans to host the Components of Statehood Day celebration on May 31st this year, which falls on a Saturday. Although Statehood Day is officially on June 1st, hosting the event on a Saturday should attract more attendees.

8. Black History Month and Preservation Month

9. June Meeting and October Meeting

Chairman Elliott stated we are looking forward to our June meeting, which will be held in the courtroom where the historic Scopes Monkey Trial began and concluded. The courtroom is a 40-minute drive from downtown Chattanooga. Accommodation was made at the Reed House. Mr. McIntyre noted his staff reminded him that the day before the meeting is a state holiday, Juneteenth, therefore it might be better to schedule the meeting for 10 a.m. to give staff more flexibility with travel. This allows those who wish to do so to work the day prior and be in the area or potentially swapping the state holiday for another day off. There's also the option of an expedition to Ducktown Basin Museum &Burra Burra Mine State Historic Site, as we will be relatively close when we're in Chattanooga, and it's an excellent time of year to visit. Everyone agreed. Chairman Elliott suggested meeting in Paris, TN in October unless there are objections. This change helps us return to our regular cycle: Middle Tennessee in winter, West Tennessee in summer, and East Tennessee in fall.

P. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Commission, Chairman Elliott thanked everyone for their time and attention.

Motion

Reggie Mudd motioned to adjourn. Ray Smith seconded. Motion passed. A roll call vote was taken. Yeas: Campbell, Kay, Elliott, Harris, McMillan, Mudd, Pomeroy, R. Smith, T. Smith, Todd, Williams. Motion approved unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 12: 23p.m.

E. Patrick McIntyre, Jr.
Executive Director

Sam D. Elliott
Chair-Elect