



THE COURIER



VOL. LXXI, No. 3

TENNESSEE HISTORICAL COMMISSION, NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

AUTUMN 2018

CAMP BLOUNT RECEIVES \$500,000

Tennessee Historical Commission Executive Director Patrick McIntyre and Tennessee Wars Commission Programs' Director Tim Hyder traveled to Fayetteville on September 12 to speak at the presentation ceremony recognizing \$500,000 in state funding from Gov. Haslam and the Tennessee General Assembly this year to the City of Fayetteville for the THC-owned Camp Blount Historic Site. Located along the banks of the Elk River, this was the location of the training encampment in 1813-14 for troops during the Creek War, and is closely associated with how the "Volunteer State" received its nickname. In 2015, the Tennessee Historical Commission purchased this property using funds from a special appropriation to the agency, along with matching funds from the State Lands Acquisition Fund. The City of Fayetteville has a primary caretaker agreement with the Commission and manages the property. The Wars Commission funded a master plan for the property, paid for interpretive signs, and also gave a grant earlier this year toward erecting a statue memorializing the Tennessee volunteer. The appropriation will help with the implementation of the master plan including building walking trails, placing the signs, and other improvements identified in the plan.



A large delegation turned out on September 12 for a presentation ceremony for \$500,000 in state funding to help develop the THC's Camp Blount Historic Site in Fayetteville.

"This is going to be an amenity for the people here in Fayetteville and Lincoln County, who are going to really enjoy getting out here and experiencing nature and beauty and learning

about history," McIntyre told the audience. He added "Our descendants will bless us for many reasons, including not only saving history but also for being able to bring a place of use to everyone in the community at the same time." Tim Hyder noted, "I think there's a very important parallel between the story of Camp Blount 200 years ago and the story of its preservation. In both scenarios, I'm proud to say that Tennesseans answered the call to protect the state that they love." Others present at the ceremony included Tennessee House Deputy Speaker Steve McDaniel, Rep. Pat Marsh, Rep. Rick Tillis, Sen. Shane Reeves, Lincoln County Mayor Bill Newman, Fayetteville Mayor Jon Law and members of the Fayetteville Board of Aldermen, and Fayetteville City Manager Scott Collins. Also present were Randy Delap, Dr. Farris Beasley, and other members and friends of the Camp Blount Historical Association.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION FUND GRANTS

In June 2018, 29 Historic Preservation Fund (HPF) grants were awarded by the State Historic Preservation Office (Tennessee Historical Commission) for various projects throughout the state. The grants are awarded annually to community and civic groups for projects that support the preservation of historic and archaeological resources.

These federally funded matching grants provide 60% of project funds from

the HPF and 40% of project funds come from the grantee. Grants are competitive and this year the Tennessee Historical Commission staff reviewed 46 applications with funding requests totaling approximately \$1.5 million, significantly more than the amount of funding available.

This year's selection included archaeological surveys, design guidelines for historic districts, rehabilitation of

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historic buildings, posters highlighting the state's archaeology, and National Register nominations.

One of the grant priorities is for projects that are Certified Local Governments (CLG), a program that allows communities to participate closely in the federal historic preservation program. Eleven CLG communities were awarded grants this year. Additional priorities include those that meet the goals and objectives of the THC's plan for historic preservation. Properties that use the restoration grants must be listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

The next round of grants is expected to be opened in December 2018 with applications due in January 2019. Check www.tnhistoricalcommission.org for updates.

The grant recipients, project, and location of the projects are:

Bedford County

Town of Bell Buckle (CLG)
\$7,200 to fund the preparation of design guidelines for the downtown.

Davidson County

Metropolitan Historical Commission (CLG)
\$24,000 to fund the preparation of a pattern book for outbuildings in historic overlay districts.

Greene County

East Tennessee State University
\$10,000 to fund an archeological survey of David Crockett Birthplace State Park

Hardeman County

City of Bolivar (CLG)
\$29,543 to fund restoration brickwork and windows on the National Register-listed Hardeman County Courthouse.

Hawkins County

Rogersville Main Street
\$15,000 to fund restoration of the roof and tower of the National Register-listed former St. Mark's Presbyterian Church.

Jackson County

Town of Gainesboro (CLG)
\$17,550 to fund restoration of the exterior of the National Register-listed Jackson County Historical Museum.

Lawrence County

City of Lawrenceburg (CLG)
\$15,000 to fund the restoration of the National Register-listed Crockett statue in the courthouse square.

City of Ethridge

\$9,269 to fund the roof restoration of the National Register-listed former Farmers and Merchants Bank.

McMinn County

City of Athens (CLG)
\$18,000 to fund design guidelines for historic districts in the city.

Roane County

Roane County Heritage Commission
\$25,000 to fund masonry restoration on the National Register-listed former Roane County Courthouse.

Sevier County

New Salem Baptist Church Renovation Task Force
\$33,416 to fund masonry restoration on the National Register-listed former church building.

Shelby County

City of Memphis (CLG)
\$42,612 to fund restoration of the tower on the National Register-listed Clayborn Temple.

Sullivan County

City of Kingsport (CLG)
\$12,060 to fund the preparation of design guidelines for historic overlay districts.

Washington County

City of Johnson City (CLG)
\$12,000 to fund a survey and National Register nomination for the Gump Addition residential area.

White County

Tennessee Division of Archaeology
\$5,400 for an archaeological survey of Burgess Falls State Park.

Williamson County

City of Franklin (CLG)
\$6,000 to fund the update the Hincheyville National Register District.
\$22,200 to fund restoration of the windows on the National Register-listed Hayes House

Wilson County

Cumberland University
\$25,000 to fund masonry restoration of the National Register-listed Memorial Hall.

Multi-County Grants

Middle Tennessee State University, Department of Sociology and Anthropology
\$3,614 for posters for Tennessee Archaeology Week.

Middle Tennessee State University, Fullerton Laboratory for Spatial Technology
\$50,000 to digitize data for historic/architectural survey files and for survey data entry for computerization of survey files.

East Tennessee Development District
\$36,000 to fund a preservation specialist staff position for the East Tennessee Development District.

First Tennessee Development District
\$30,000 to fund a preservation specialist staff position for the First Tennessee Development District.

Greater Nashville Regional Council
\$25,000 to fund a preservation specialist staff position for the Greater Nashville Regional Council.

Memphis Area Association of Governments
\$25,000 to fund a preservation specialist staff position for the Memphis Area Association of Governments.

Northwest Tennessee Development District
\$36,000 to fund a preservation specialist staff position for the Northwest Tennessee Development District.

South Central Tennessee Development District
\$50,000 to fund a preservation specialist staff position for the South Central Tennessee Development District.

Southeast Tennessee Development District
\$54,000 to fund a preservation specialist staff position for the Southeast Tennessee Development District.

Southwest Tennessee Development District
\$40,000 to fund a preservation specialist staff position for the Southwest Tennessee Development District.

Upper Cumberland Development District
\$40,000 to fund a preservation specialist staff position for the Upper Cumberland Development District.

For more information about the Tennessee Historical Commission, please visit the Web site at: <http://www.tnhistoricalcommission.org>.



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES NEWS

By Rebecca Schmitt

Eight Tennessee Properties Added to National Register of Historic Places

The National Park Service has added eight Tennessee properties to the National Register of Historic Places. The sites added to the National Register are:

American Snuff Factory

Memphis, Shelby County

Constructed between 1912 and 1957, the American Snuff Factory is historically significant in Memphis's tobacco and snuff industry. Snuff, a smokeless tobacco product, is made from dark, air- and fire-cured tobacco leaves that were chopped, fermented, dried, and ground into a fine powder before being canned for sale. The product was particularly popular with women during the 19th and 20th centuries. American Snuff is currently the only tobacco production facility within Tennessee listed in the National Register.



American Snuff Factory.

The nomination for the American Snuff Factory was prepared by Judith Johnson of Judith Johnson and Associates

Booker T. Motel

Humboldt, Gibson County

Prior to desegregation and the Civil Rights Act of 1964, African-American travelers faced immense challenges finding public accommodations that would serve them. The Booker T. Motel, built in 1954, was one of the only places African-Americans could stay while traveling through West Tennessee. Advertisements in the *Negro Travelers Green Book* and *Ebony* magazine spread word of the motel's offerings. Soon after the property's construction, Alfred and Velva Pulliam purchased it. The motel's adjoining restaurant soon became known for Mr. Pulliam's pit barbecue with special sauce.



Booker T. Motel

The nomination for Booker T. Motel was prepared by Jessica Baker, Historic Preservation Planner at the Northwest Tennessee Development District, and Holly Barnett, Tennessee Historical Commission

Brownsville Carnegie Library

Brownsville, Haywood County

In 1909 Brownsville received a grant from steel magnate Andrew Carnegie to construct a public library. Brownsville was the smallest Tennessee community to receive a Carnegie grant. Built in the Classical Revival style, the library opened in 1913. Local civic groups supported the library's mission through donations and children's programming, such as a popular Children's Story Hour. After a new, larger library opened in 1992, the Carnegie Library was rehabilitated and reopened as the Brownsville-Haywood County Chamber of Commerce in 1994.



Brownsville Carnegie Library

The nomination for the Brownsville Carnegie Library was prepared by Rebecca Schmitt, Tennessee Historical Commission

Carverdale Farms

Granville, Jackson County

Since Sam Carver purchased the property in 1890, Carverdale Farms has been the economic, religious, civic, and commercial center for the small community of Liberty. The property included the town's only church, cemetery, general store, and mill. The ever-expanding farmhouse doubled as a pseudo

court of law for the county's 5th Civil District. During World War II, soldiers briefly used the farm for maneuvers training. In 1955, owner Joe Moore (great grandson of Sam Carver) received the Star Farmer of America award. He and the farm were featured in the October 24, 1955 issue of Time magazine.



Carverdale Farms

The nomination for Carverdale Farms was prepared by Carver Moore of Moore Historical Consulting

National Trust Life Insurance Building

Memphis, Shelby County

In 1931 Alvin Wunderlich, Sr. founded National Burial Insurance Company in Memphis. Over the decades, the company's insurance services expanded and changed as state legislation and legal proceedings affected what the company could offer. By the 1960s, the company, now renamed National Trust Life Insurance, had expanded to serve a multi-state region with offices in Tennessee, Missouri, Mississippi, Arkansas, and Georgia. To house the growing staff, the company hired Charles Jen of Martin and Jen architectural firm to design a new headquarters, which opened in 1963.



National Trust Life Insurance Building

The nomination for National Trust Life Insurance Building was prepared by Steven McQuillin and Judith Johnson of Judith Johnson and Associates

National Register, continued on page 4

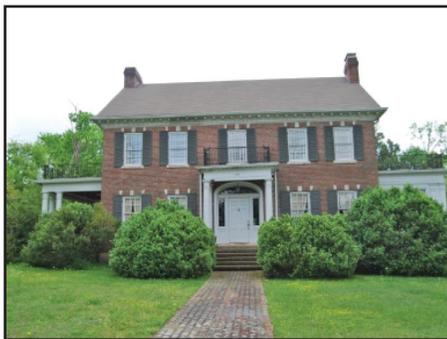


National Register, continued from page 3

Smotherman House

Tullahoma, Coffee County

Completed in 1934 after two years of construction, the Smotherman House is an excellent example of the Georgian Revival style in Tullahoma. Its characteristic features include its symmetrical appearance, classical details, and prominent front entryway. Wholesale grocer Fletcher Smotherman and his family chose prolific architect George D. Waller to design the home, though they insisted that it appear similar to their former home in Murfreesboro. John Byars Holder designed the landscaping and formal garden. The Smotherman family lived in the home until 2017.



Smotherman House

The nomination for the Smotherman House was prepared by Rebecca Schmitt, Tennessee Historical Commission

Travellers' Rest

Nashville, Davidson County

Originally listed in the National Register in 1969 for its importance in settlement and association with John Overton, the nomination for Travellers' Rest was updated in 2018 to recognize the property's wider significance. It is the first nomination in the state to include all four National Register criteria recognizing significance in history, association with a significant person, architecture, and archaeology. Originally constructed in 1799 and subsequently expanded, Overton's home exemplifies the Federal and Greek Revival styles. During the Battle of Nashville, Confederate General John Bell Hood used the house as his headquarters. The property also retains important prehistoric and historic archaeological remains that continue to provide information about the history of the Nashville area.



Travellers' Rest

The updated nomination for Travellers' Rest was prepared by Dr. Susan W. Knowles and Dr. Kevin E. Smith, both of Middle Tennessee State University.

Tullahoma Municipal Building

Tullahoma, Coffee County

Founded as a railroad town in the early 19th century, Tullahoma experienced tremendous growth during the mid-20th century when the Federal Government established Arnold Engineering Development Center just outside of the city. As demand for electricity and municipal services grew, the City of Tullahoma and the Tullahoma Power System joined forces to construct a Municipal Building that would house both entities, as well as the fire and police stations. Completed in 1954, the Municipal Building features Georgia marble on the entryway and terrazzo flooring in the lobby. The Power System moved to a new, larger location in 1977, followed a few years later by the Fire Station. Today, the City and Police Station still occupy the building.



Tullahoma Municipal Building

The nomination for the Tullahoma Municipal Building was prepared by Casey Lee and Rebecca Schmitt, both of Tennessee Historical Commission.

REVIEW AND COMPLIANCE: FOCUS ON CENTER HILL DAM

By Justin Heskew, Review and Compliance Section, Tennessee SHPO

Since its completion in 1948, the Center Hill Dam has been instrumental in the economic development and flood protection of Middle Tennessee. It is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places for its early post World War II architectural and engineering qualities that are found in the design and materials used in construction and the technological advancements harnessed to produce electricity. Designed by the Army Corps of Engineers, the 248 foot high and 1,400

long structure located on the Caney Fork River has three power generating units capable of producing 135,000 kilowatts of electricity and controls a drainage area of 2,174 square miles.

Section 106 staff recently visited the facility in consultation of alterations that will improve the efficiency of routine maintenance of the dam by allowing easier access for Corps personnel. The site visit provided staff with a better understanding of project details and result in a more informed direction to take when discussing mitigation for the adverse effects the project will have on the structure's



Center Hill Dam

National Register of Historic Places eligibility. The mitigation currently proposed will focus on expanding public education about the history and function of the dam through interpretative panels located at various view sheds. The Center Hill Dam was previously documented by the Historic American Engineering Record archived at the Library of Congress.



PUBLICATIONS TO NOTE

By Linda T. Wynn

Assistant Director for State Programs & Publications Editor

University of Kentucky Press, 663 South Limestone Street, Lexington, Kentucky 40508-4008

The Cold War at Home and Abroad: Domestic Politics and U. S. Foreign Policy since 1945

is a compilation of eleven essays edited by Andrew L. Johns and Mitchell B. Lerner. Reflecting the growing and methodological diversity that has transformed the field of diplomatic history over the last twenty years, the contributors examine a spectrum of domestic factors ranging from elections and congressional influence to religion and regionalism. Tracing their influence on the history of the United States' foreign relations since 1945, they highlight influences and ideas that broadens one's understanding of the history of American foreign relations. Fusing conventional diplomatic history with the advantages of more contemporary approaches, the eleven essays stress the multifaceted labyrinth of interfaces that influenced the politics of policymaking. Editors Andrew L. Johns and Michael B. Lerner offer an account of how domestic politics influence the country's foreign relations and directs a path to potential trends of inquiry. **Hardback, \$60.00**

University of Georgia Press, Main Library, Third Floor, 320 South Jackson Street, Athens, Georgia 30602

The University of Georgia Press recently published Anthony Szczesiul's ***The Southern Hospital Myth: Ethics, Politics, Race, and American Memory***. Szczesiul examines how and why Americans have taken so particular as the social habit of hospitality exercised among diverse individuals and is widely varied in its practices—and so generalized it as to make it a cultural trait of an entire region of the country. Although historians have proffered various hypotheses, they generally agree that the mythic aspects of southern hospitality eventually outstripped its actual practices. Examining why Americans have chosen to remember and

valorize this aspect of the South, the author of ***Racial Politics and Robert Penn Warren's Poetry***, raises basic ethical questions that underlie both the perception of hospitality and the cultural work of American memory, especially considering the region's historical legacy of enslavement and racial segregation. **Hardback, \$64.95.**

The University of North Carolina Press, 116 South Boundary Street, Chapel Hill, North Carolina 27514-3808

Courtney Elizabeth Knapp's ***Constructing the Dynamo of Dixie: Race, Urban Planning, and Cosmopolitanism in Chattanooga, Tennessee*** chronicles the politics of gentrification and culture-based development in Chattanooga, Tennessee. It traces the origins of racism, spatial segregation, and mainstream "cosmopolitanism" back to the earliest encounters between the Cherokee, African Americans, and white settlers. For more than three-centuries, the city of Chattanooga has been a site of multiracial interaction and community building. In the more recent past public officials simultaneously restricted and appropriated numerous contributions made by communities of color within the city, exacerbating inequality and distrust between communities and public officials responsible for determining and implementing policy. Knapp suggests that "diasporic place making"—defined as the everyday practices through which uprooted people create new communities of security and belonging—is a useful analytical framework for identifying how multiracial interactions drive planning and urban development in diverse cities overtime. By weaving together archival, ethnographic, and participatory action research techniques, the author reveals the political complexities of a city characterized by centuries of ordinary resistance to racial segregation and uneven geographic development. **Paper, \$29.95.**

Vanderbilt University Press, PMB 351813, 2301 Vanderbilt Place, Nashville, TN 37235-1813 and the Frist Arts Museum, 919 Broadway, Nashville, TN 37203

Vanderbilt University Press and the Frist Art Museum joined forces and published ***We Shall Overcome: Press Photographs of Nashville during the Civil Right Era, 1957-1958*** that expanded on the museum's exhibition of the same title that documented an important era in Tennessee's capital city of Nashville and its struggle for racial equality. Edited by Kathryn E. Delmez with a foreword by U. S. Representative John Lewis, the catalogue is illustrated with approximately one-hundred photographs that were taken between 1957, marking the beginning of integration, to 1968 when the National Guard was called in and surrounded the state capitol following the assassination of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Significant images include young African American children taunted as they desegregated Nashville's public schools, and images of lunch counter sit-ins, led by students from the city's four Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) in February of 1960. Photographs obtained from the archives of Nashville's two daily newspapers at the time, *The Tennessean* and the now-defunct *Nashville Banner* illustrate the exhibit. Respectively essays by Linda T. Wynn of the Tennessee Historical Commission and Fisk University and Susan H. Edwards, executive director of the Frist Art Museum, offer historical context on Nashville during the civil rights era and on photojournalism. The role that Nashville played in the national civil rights movement as a hub of training students in nonviolent direct action protest and as the first Southern city to desegregate places of business is a narrative worthy of re-examination. This exhibition offered an opportunity to consider the role of images and the media in shaping public opinion, a germane topic in today's news-saturated zeitgeist. **Hardback, \$32.00.**



HISTORIC STRUCTURES SURVEY AND GIS PROGRAM UPDATE

By Peggy Nickell, Survey and GIS Coordinator

Since the last National Register State Review Board Meeting in May 2018, thirty-six Consultants have made appointments to research project sites. Their research is related to cell towers, transmission lines, solar farms and NEPA due diligence.

Survey training for the Development District Historic Preservation Planners was conducted on May 16, while individual training sessions for seven of the nine development districts were conducted. The digitized survey form and the identification of architectural terms and elements were discussed along with instruction relating to reading topographic maps and performing historic structures' surveys.

An update of the Tennessee Historical Commission Viewer was completed on June 22nd and included surveyed properties for an additional 12 counties and a few individual projects. As of the latest update, the THC Viewer now has 164,547 surveyed properties within 74 counties. Of these, Shelby County has the highest number of surveyed properties with 35,797, Davidson County has 25,963 and Knox County has 13,587. Of the 21 remaining counties, 15 have not been surveyed and 6 still have to be entered. After quality control measures are introduced into the database they then are geo-referenced in the THC Viewer.

Work continues on creating a computer web application to harmonize with the TN Survey form. The current TN Survey Manual (1991) will be updated to include instructions on the use of the new application. Work also continues on compiling data that will allow the addition of new tiers to the THC Viewer to provide information on National Register-listed properties and districts, National Historic Landmarks and Formal Determinations of Eligibility within Tennessee.

Thanks to a grant from Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA), photographs of its many surveyed properties are being digitized and labeled. These will ultimately be archived and linked to the THC Viewer. However, this is necessarily an ongoing task.

Grants for the 2017-2018 year will be completed on September 30th. Bledsoe County, one of this year's survey grant recipients, has identified approximately 200 historic properties. Those results will be received in a final report recommending properties eligible for National Register listing.

Slides for 61 of the 95 counties have been placed in archival boxes resulting in 122 boxes with many more to go. Each box contains 600 slides, amounting to 73,200.

Geo-Referencing and digitizing of survey files continues to be the main priority with several county surveys and consultant survey reports providing the data.



Published by the
**TENNESSEE HISTORICAL
COMMISSION**
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Nashville, Tennessee 37243-0442

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Public Comment Solicited

The Tennessee Historical Commission is again soliciting public comment and advice on its administration of the National Historic Preservation Act. Especially, we are seeking input on such matters as geographic areas or classes of properties which should be a priority for survey and/or registration efforts, criteria and priorities which should be established for restoration grants, and ways and means through which local efforts at preservation of historic properties can be most effectively assisted. Comments and advice on other areas and issues of a more general nature are also encouraged. Activities carried out by the Commission under the mandate of the Act include efforts to survey and inventory potentially-historic properties across the state and to nominate the most significant to the National Register of Historic Places. Other activities involve programs to protect and preserve properties once they are identified by reviewing Federal projects to determine if they will adversely affect historic properties and wish to earn the investment tax credits which are available; awarding and administering grants for the restoration of National Register properties; and providing technical assistance and advice to local governments which are attempting to establish local programs and ordinances to protect historic properties. Besides the restoration grants program, some of these activities are carried out in part by the provision of grant support to local groups and agencies. These grant funds are federal funds which are appropriated under the authority of the National Historic Preservation Act to assist states in carrying out the purposes of the Act. The comments received will be used to structure the annual application to the National Park Service for these funds. The Tennessee Historical Commission expects to solicit applications for grants-in-aid in June of this year for the 2017 Fiscal Year (10/01/2016-9/30/2017). The public input and advice which we are soliciting now will help to set both general office objectives and to establish priorities and criteria for the review of grant applications. Comments are requested by April 15, 2017, and may be addressed to Claudette Stager, Assistant Director for National Register Programs, Tennessee Historical Commission, 2941 Lebanon Pike, Nashville, Tennessee 37214.

This program receives Federal funds from the National Park Service. Regulations of the U.S. Department of the Interior strictly prohibit unlawful discrimination in departmental federally assisted programs on the basis of race, color, national origin, age or disability. Any person who believes he or she has been discriminated against in any program, activity or facility operated by a recipient of Federal assistance should write to: Director, Equal Opportunity Program, U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, D.C. 20013-7127

Tennessee Historical Commission, Authorization Number 327324, 16,800 copies promulgated at a cost of \$0.17 per copy, 06/17.

NR NUMBERS FOR FALL 2018 COURIER

Since the May 2018 there have been eight new entries to the National Register of Historic Places from Tennessee. The properties are the following:

Wassom Farm
Booker T. Motel
Brownsville Carnegie Library
American Snuff Company
Tullahoma Municipal Building
Travellers Rest (Additional Documentation)
Carverdale Farms
National Trust Life Insurance Company Building

Removal

The following properties were removed from the National Register due to loss of the primary structure.

Noblit—Lytle House 7
Cedar Grove 1

Tennessee now has **2,202** entries in the National Register from Tennessee including **287** districts for a total of **44,168** resources listed.



Parades in Tennessee History.

THE CONFEDERATE VETERANS' REUNION, JUNE 8-10, 1909, & THE JACKSON DAY BICENTENNIAL, JANUARY 8, 1915.

By James B. Jones, Public Historian

A cliché has it that “everybody loves a parade.” Parades are public spectacles held to pay homage and celebrate a given cause, group or historical event. They serve the function of reinforcing social status, political norms, and any of a great number of events and causes. In Tennessee’s 19th and early 20th century they celebrated any number of themes, from a famous date or person in history, a civil celebration, a religious for civil or to recognize a myriad of interests. In a time when television, the internet and podcasts were unimaginable, parades were also just plain fun to watch. They were outlets for recognition and bestowing and reinforcing social status and esteem. Most likely, the first real manifestation of parades in Tennessee history began with the annual volunteer firemen’s celebrations in Memphis and Nashville in the late antebellum era. Volunteer firemen formed a distinct social group, personified by an urban folk-hero, the equivalent of David Crockett, “Mose the Bowery B’hoi.”¹

The first official parade of the Memphis volunteer fire department, in 1849 was a success; so much so that it was predicted by the *Memphis Daily Enquirer*, “to see this beautiful display repeated.”² In Memphis, in 1855, as the annual parade of volunteers approached, the *Memphis Weekly Appeal* exhorted its readers to attend the event. It was important that the fire fighters “be held in the estimation and honor that is ever grateful to the hearts of men who

labor...for the public good.”³ Similar parades were held in Nashville in the ante-bellum era. A likeness of “Mose the Bowery B’boy,” the first American urban folk hero, appeared on a float in Nashville during the 1855 parade.⁴ Music, showers of flowers, more volunteer fire companies, banquets, parties, cheers, colorful uniforms, the display of decorated fire engines and speeches all helped to identify the volunteers and couple pride of place with community memory.

Parades continued well into the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries celebrating everything from military heroes, regional fairs, “baby days,” military drill teams, bicycling clubs, tobacco products, automobiles, orphans, military veterans, draft horses, floral exhibitions, dolls, and the Tennessee Centennial of 1897.⁵ They increasingly became a means of demonstrating and forging public memory with the past. Two twentieth century events are especially worthy of attention for their historic themes. One was the reunion of the United Confederate Veterans in 1909, and the Centennial celebration and parade commemorating Andrew Jackson’s victory over the British at the Battle of New Orleans, held on January 15, 1915.⁶

The occasion for the notable “monster parade” in Memphis was the nineteenth reunion celebration of the United Confederate Veterans (UCV) Association, held in Memphis, June 8-10, 1909. Where the veterans congregated, so did the Sons of United Veterans (SUV).⁷

The Commander in Chief of the SUV promised to carry on its annual reunions “when the old veterans pass away.” At their meeting, “the assemblage was conspicuous for the presence of hundreds of Confederate Dames and daughters who cheered the younger generation in their routine work of perpetuating their organization for carrying out the work of their forefathers.” A distinctive feature of the SUV meeting occurred when

Nathan Bedford Forrest II., grandson of the Confederate cavalry, although but four years of age was presented to the convention attired in uniform as a general made from the military clothes worn by his distinguished forefather. The enthusiasm was unbounded.⁸

Later that afternoon, according to a press account:

From songs of war, from tap of drum, and shrill scream of fife; from martial uniforms and accouterments of battle, the scene in Memphis changed this afternoon at the Confederate reunion to dainty femininity in Paris gowns and flowers.⁹

Following the SUV meeting an “elegant floral parade charmed both visitors and veterans as well.” And no wonder as it consisted of over 100 stylish horse drawn carriages adorned with the most “exquisite blossoms of the Southland, carrying the flower

Celebration, continued on page 8

¹ James B. Jones, Jr., “Manning the Brakes in Antebellum Memphis and Nashville, Tennessee,” *The Courier*, Vol. XXIII, No. 1, (October 1984), 4-5, 7.

² *Memphis Daily Enquirer*, May 15, 1849.

³ For examples see: *Memphis Weekly Appeal*, May 2, 1855. See also: James B. Jones, Jr., “The Social Aspects of the Memphis Volunteer Fire Department,” *West Tennessee Historical Society Papers*, Vol. XXXVII, 1983, 62-73. With the introduction of steam powered fire engines in the late 1850s, the need for volunteer firemen was greatly diminished and the appearance of paid, municipally controlled fire departments was initiated.

⁴ James B. Jones, Jr., “Mose the Bowery B’hoi and the Nashville Volunteer Fire Department, 1849-1860,” *Tennessee Historical Quarterly*, Vol. XL, no. 2 (Summer), 1981, 170-181.

⁵ *Nashville American*, May 3, 1878; July 5, 1878; March 2, 1881; May 26, 1882; May 11, 1883; May 26, 1883; September 2, 1890; May 20, 1892; May 22, 1895; June 1, 1896; March 3, 1897; September 14, 1897; September 17, 1897; September 22, 1897; September 29, 1897; May 8, 1900; September 28, 1900; February 18, 1904; March 10, 1907; March 12, 1907; September 16, 1910; September 16, 1910; September 20, 1910; June 3, 1918; *Nashville Tennessean* and *Nashville American*, June 1, 1896; September 12, 1907; October 11, 1907; June 23, 1911; September 21, 1911; April 14, 1912; September 9, 12, 1912; September 2, 1913; February 29, 1916; June 4, 1916; Aug 7, 1916; September 24, 1917; July 5, 1918; June 3, 1918; June 10, 1919; *Nashville Tennessean*; June 1, 1905; October 11, 1907; June 6, 1909; July 7, 1909. Although the centennial for Tennessee’s admittance into Union was 1896, poor planning caused the official celebration to be put off one year.

⁶ There was also a sham battle portraying the fight at New Orleans presented as part of the “Irish Day” parade held during the Tennessee Bicentennial. See: *Nashville American*, September 17, 1897. Sham battles were common forms of entertainment in the nineteenth century. See: James B. Jones, “Tennessee Military Drill Teams, ca. 1874-1889,” *The Courier*, Vol. LXI, No. 1, February 2013.

⁷ Today the “Sons of Confederate Veterans,” or “SCV.”

⁸ *Nashville Tennessean*, June 9, 1909.

⁹ *Nashville American*, June 9, 1909.

**Celebration, continued from page 7**

and beauty of Southern womanhood.” It was a variegated pageant with all manner of color combinations. Each vehicle was accompanied by two or more equestrian male escorts who wore the colors of “the ladies whom they attended.” Twenty marching bands and squads of marching veterans were interspersed in the parade. A special highlight was the display of 100 mounted United Confederate Veteran cavalry officers. A young girl, each attired in “snowy white” was at each officer’s side. Problems associated with the senectitude of some of the more elder veterans were exacerbated by the heat and humidity, resulting in “a score or more prostrations – two fatal – most of the victims being the old men in gray.” Nevertheless, the floral parade continued, lasting three hours. The crowd of spectators was estimated at a staggering 100,000.¹⁰

According to the official UCV program, June 9 was taken up with UCV Association business, receptions by the United Daughters of the Confederacy and similar groups, a boat ride on the Mississippi River, and a concert by the Confederate Choir at Confederate Hall.¹¹ The next day’s events, however, were less subdued.

The events of the 10th began in the morning with the “Yip! ‘Yip!’ of the famous rebel yell. “One distinguished old gentleman, whose insignia told that he held a commission as Colonel, turned the yell loose in the corridors of the Gayoso Hotel, adding: ‘Wake up gentlemen: wake up and put some life into this reunion!’”

In the meantime trains “strung out for miles,” began arriving bringing nearing nearly numberless visitors to Memphis to witness the parade.

That morning the reunion was held at the Bijou Theater. Speeches were made extolling the brave old soldiers of the “Lost Cause.” Governor Malcom Patterson, mentioning that his father was a Confederate soldier, extended a warm welcome to the assembled veterans. His speech was followed by remarks made by the



Gen. John Hugh McDowell, Grand Marshall, Heading the Columns of the Heros in Gray. (Courtesy TSLA)

Commander in Chief of the Confederate Veterans, Clement A. Evans who helped set the tone of the reunion by saying: “No! No! Our cause was not lost because it was not wrong!”¹²

The stage was decorated with the Confederate flags interwoven with the United States flags. Grouped around the speakers stand were gray-clad officers of the old Confederacy, “their gold insignia on coat sleeve and collar relieving the dull gray of their uniform.” In back of them sat “the maids, matrons and sponsors in dainty white” while above them in tiers were grouped the 100 beautiful girls, clad in gray homespun, who composed “the famous Confederate Choir.” Immediately preceding Governor Malcom Patterson’s speech, “the commander-in-chief of the choir...sang ‘Dixie’...with a voice of wondrous charm, carrying...the silken banner of the Lost Cause...nearly every man stage stood up. Heels clicked together with military precision, and hands rose up sharply...in military salute.” A cacophony of rebel yells resounded as the last words of the Confederate anthem (“to live and die in Dixie!”) were sung. The attending veterans threw their hats in the air, “hugged one another, and more than one broke into tears...” The hall was a dramatic vision of waving “Stars and Bars” and the

“music of the band was drowned out by the cheers.”¹³ After calm replaced the uproar the meeting was adjourned. The erstwhile soldiers began assembling for the highlight of the day, their brobdingnagian parade.¹⁴

After some initial delay the parade was ready to begin. Some of the veterans had assembled as early at 5:30 in the morning. A mounted squad of parade police led a forty member marching band. More than 20,000 men, women and children and general followers of the surviving members of the Confederate Army participated in the parade, as a monstrous crowd of 200,000 spectators packed the sidewalks and watched from windows along the parade route awaiting the veteran warriors Confederate old-timers’ march.¹⁵ It was described as the longest, biggest, and greatest spectacle ever held in the city, being several miles in length. Major General John Hugh McDowell¹⁶ had organized the event, while Commander in Chief of the Confederate Veterans, General Clement A. Evans waited for the command to kick off the procession to be given. The regiments of veteran marchers stretched out from South Second street to North Main street. The command “fall in” was

Celebration, continued on page 9

¹⁰ *Nashville Tennessean*, June 9, 1909.

¹¹ *Nashville American*, May 24, 1909.

¹² *Ibid.*, June 9, 1909; *Memphis Commercial Appeal*, June 11, 1909

¹³ *Nashville Tennessean*, June 9, 1909.

¹⁴ *Nashville American*, June 9, 1909; *Memphis Commercial Appeal*, June 11, 1909

¹⁵ *Memphis Commercial Appeal*, June 11, 1909; *Nashville Tennessean*, June 11, 1909.

¹⁶ See: James B. Jones, Jr., “‘General’ John Hugh (‘Jehazy’) McDowell: A Brief Biography of a Confederate Veteran and Political Maverick (1844-1927),” *The Courier*, October 1998. McDowell issued strict guidelines for the parade, including a ban on automobiles, the position and number of carriages in the procession and an absolute sanction on advertisements on any carriage. See: *Nashville American*, May 23, 1909.

**Celebration, continued from page 8****Gen. Tyler Leading the Men Who Rode With Forrest***General Tyler leading the men who rode with Forrest (Courtesy TSLA)*

given and the line of march began at precisely 10:00 a.m., with the veterans stepping “unflinching, unshirking and unshrinkingly,” north on Second street to Poplar, to the Public Square, and through Third, Union and Fifth. As far as the eye could see, two compact lines of expectant spectators watched the approach of the leader of the parade, Commander in Chief of the Confederate Veterans, General Clement A. Evans, who, with “long gray locks [swept] from his uncovered head like the plumes of an eagle” was mounted on a “Kentucky bred saddler.” The veterans of the Army of Northern Virginia were next in line, followed by Texans and Mississippians. Third in line were Army of Tennessee veterans. As they came into view the “crowd on the grand stand lost control of itself and gave way to cheer after cheer.”¹⁷

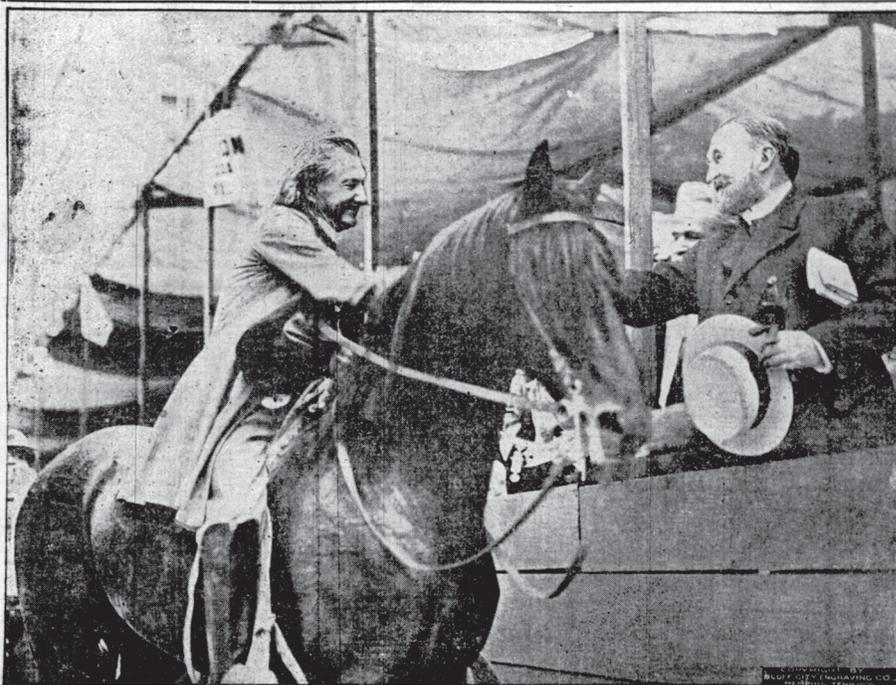
There was a break in the procession, and the crowd began to grow listless. However, soon a “tiny tad, a boy about 3 years old, astride of a pony not much bigger than a watch dog, [came] ambling into view. A man walk[ed] at the pony’s rein, using one hand to guide the animal and the other occasionally to steady the little fellow in the saddle,” by now a recognized icon of the veterans’ celebration.

It is Nathan Bedford Forrest III, the great grandson of the Wizard of the Saddle, at the head of Forrest’s cavalry.

[There was no need] to prompt the throng to cheer...If ever they gave the rebel yell, they [gave] it with good will.¹⁸

As the equestrian General Evans approached the reviewing box “His body was erect. His long hair waved in the vagrant wind. His eyes were bright with the memories of yesterday. His hold on his horse was firm.”¹⁹ Surrounded by his staff, he halted the parade and approached the reviewing stand in which the son of Ulysses S. Grant, Major-General Frederick D. Grant, was seated.²⁰ General Grant saluted. “In a minute recognition followed,

and turning his horse to one side the eminent commander of the old guard clasped the hand of Gen. Grant.” This sensationally touching

Celebration, continued on page 10**Gen. George W. Gordon and Staff Leading Remnant of Brave Band of Tenn. Fighters***The contingent representing the Confederate veterans of the Army of Tennessee, the “Remnant of Brave Band of Tennessee Fighters.” (Courtesy TSLA)***Commanding General Confederate Forces Shaking Hands With The Son of the Commander of the Federal Army***This striking protograph portrays the feature of the U. C. V. parade, when Gen. Clement A. Evans and Gen. Fred D. Grant shook hands to the accompaniment of a volley of Confederate yells and the applause of the reviewing stand.*

This striking protograph portrays the feature of the U. C. V. parade, when Gen. Clement A. Evans and Gen. Fred D. Grant shook hands to the accompaniment of a volley of Confederate yells and the applause of the reviewing stand. (Courtesy TSLA)

¹⁷ Memphis *Commercial Appeal*, June 11, 1909.

¹⁸ Ibid. Press coverage was somewhat ambiguous as to whether the young Forrest was II or III.

¹⁹ Ibid.

²⁰ Grant, who was on his way to attend the unveiling of a monument to a dead hero of the “Lost Cause” in Vicksburg, Mississippi, stopped in Memphis upon the invitation of the Confederate veterans. He was the Major General in command of the Eastern Division of the U. S. Army, which included the Department of the East and the Department of the Gulf.

**Celebration, continued from page 9**

moment was captured for posterity by a *Commercial Appeal* newspaper photographer.

According to coverage provided by the *Memphis Commercial Appeal*:

The meeting of the two was pathetic. [sic] The son of the man who was the greatest federal soldier beamed proudly. The venerated man in gray smiled back with the same look of pride. The two held hands. The vale between the blue and gray vanished. A re-united country was cemented in the clasp. Thousands of people watched. Thousands of people applauded and the parade moved on.

Having seen their Commander in Chief General Evans shaking hands with Grant prompted many of the marching veteran rebel soldiers to take the opportunity to do the same, and "it may be said in all truthfulness that Gen. Grant practically shook hands with the army of the Confederacy, or all that is left of that splendid aggregation of men who marched to victory and final defeat beneath the Stars and Bars."²¹ All members of the Nathan Bedford Forrest contingent dismounted, eagerly approaching the reviewing stand to meet the son of their one time nemesis. "Hats were thrown into the air and loud salvos of applause were sent out on every side. One old private actually kissed the modest general, who," with tears in his eyes returned the salutes of the men in gray. It was sometime before order was restored and the march continued."²² Brief conversations between a few of the veterans and General Grant were reported:

"I fought your old daddy as hard as I could and he was a good fighter" said one gray veteran.

"Where did you meet him?" asked Gen. Grant.

"I was down in Shenandoah with Lee," came the reply. "I am with the Virginia troop."

"I am glad I have met you. I was with my father for a while in Virginia and knew what good fighting was."

Another pushed in, bent and broken.

"I am proud to shake hands with

General Grant's son," he said. "I tried to land him once, but I am glad to shake hands with the son of a good fighter and a good man."²³

Although the ranks of the Confederate veterans had thinned over the years, the enthusiasm of the spectators was palpable as was the general feeling that this was a historic event. Although a cool breeze blew off the Mississippi River it failed to stifle the high temperatures, said to be the warmest weather experienced in a number of years. But any doubts on the part of the veterans' company officers to take their men out into the heat had dissipated. "The sun beat down pitilessly upon the asphalt streets and was thrown back into the faces of the heavily clad veterans as they marched along."²⁴ Weaker, feebler veterans were discouraged from marching, but the marshal sounds of the drum and the clatter of horses' hooves revived their spirits and "it was with great difficulty that some of the weaker veterans were dissuaded from entering on the

line of march."²⁵ At times the picture was poignant, as "men marched by without arms and rode by without legs....Others, too feeble to ride or walk were seated in vehicles and the weak voices of age enthusiastically responded to the cheering of the spectators."²⁶

Nevertheless, many veterans succumbed to the extraordinary exertion and quite a number were forced to leave the ranks of the parade before it concluded. In anticipation of such occurrences, ambulances were stationed along the line of march to assist any vacillating marchers whose "confidence had been stronger than his powers of physical endurance." "Characteristic," noted the *Commercial Appeal*, "of the soldiers of the Confederacy these men think that there is nothing impossible for them."

Company B, from Nashville, came next. They kept cadence and provide captivated spectators all along the parade route who

Celebration, continued on page 11



Company B, Nashville contingent of the United Confederate Veterans. This "crack organization drew cheers all along the parade route." June 9, 1909. (Courtesy TSLA)

²¹ Ibid.

²² Nashville Tennessean, June 11, 1909.

²³ Memphis *Commercial Appeal*, June 11, 1909 and Nashville Tennessean, June 11, 1909.

²⁴ Nashville Tennessean, June 11, 1909.

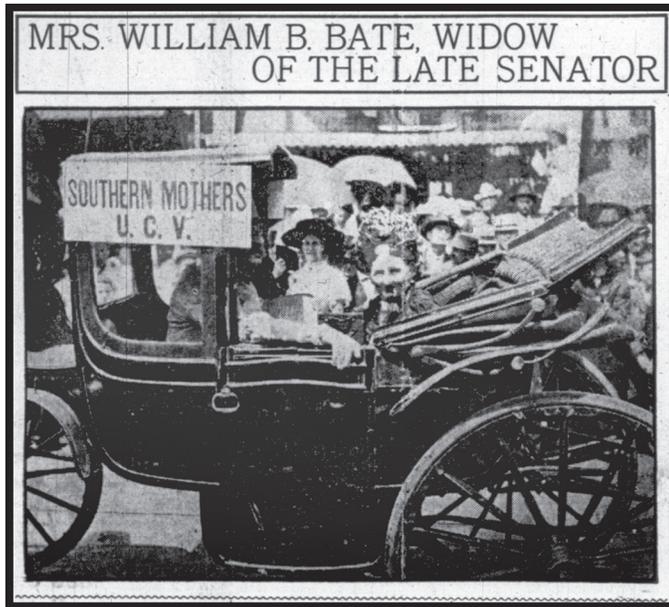
²⁵ Memphis *Commercial Appeal*, June 11, 1909.

²⁶ Memphis *Commercial Appeal*, June 11, 1909. Most likely the footage of the parade has been lost or destroyed.

²⁷ Nashville Tennessean, June 11, 1909. See also: Nashville American, June 11, 1909.



Celebration, continued from page 10



"Veteran" Southern Mothers participated in the parade. Among the Southern Mothers pictured (in the foreground) is Mrs. William B. Bate, widow of Confederate General, Ex-Governor and U. S. Senator. The number of spectators watching the parade and the heat of the day can be judged from the onlookers in the background. (Courtesy TSLA)



Representatives of the United Daughters of the Confederacy, Tennessee Division. (Courtesy TSLA)

greeted them with loud cheers. A number of enterprising film makers recorded the parade from various angles for movies to be projected later "in dizzy haste across the white screen of many moving picture shows."²⁷

Aside from the veterans, women were represented as well. Early in the Civil War, in Memphis, the "Southern Mothers" organization was formed in the Bluff City in 1861 to care for wounded and sick Confederate soldiers.²⁸ Their role was honored by a place in the parade. Additionally, the Daughters of the Confederacy were represented. They did not march, but rode, sporting ostrich plumed hats, in elegant phaetons, befitting their social status.²⁹

The Sons of Confederate Veterans, "several thousand strong," closed the parade. It was noted that they were mostly "getting along in years, nearly all of them are gray and they look like veterans themselves." There was but one fatality reported from the ranks of the parading veterans.³⁰ A reporter for the *Commercial Appeal* offered this romantic summation of the parade:

Undaunted, unappalled, undismayed and unawed, these men went into battle against overwhelming odds and fought for four fierce years, in which they suffered every imaginable hardship. They fought to a dogged and indomitable finish, and the spirit which animated them in the bloody days was shown in the fortitude of yesterday, for, physically weak, they marched unafraid with a firm and steady tread on the hot asphalt and under a hotter sun. The faces of some were white and tired and haggard before the march was half done, but their steps never faltered and their heads were defiantly unbending.³¹

For all intents and purposes, when the parade ended so did the nineteenth annual reunion. Yet, while the parade was over, there was still the matter of the ball given for the sponsors and maids. It was appropriate that the close of the greatest reunion of the United Confederate Veterans ought to be concluded by a social event.

The climax of the week's events came for not only the younger generation but the veterans as well... at the ball given for the sponsors and maids...It was fitting that the close of the greatest reunion of the United Confederate Veterans should be closed with mirth and music.³²

The ball was held at the large auditorium on Madison Avenue, with room for 10,000 attendees. The floor accommodated fully 7,000 dancers while the venue was decorated with Confederate flags presenting "a vivid scene of color."

Thousands of Confederate uniforms were in evidence and on tier after tier were banked solidly the long rows of ladies and their escorts who came to view the ball.

The crowd became so numerous that the city building commissioner ordered the doors closed to maintain safety. The ball was "opened by the famous Southern Cross Drill and 1,000 couples participated in the dance,

Celebration, continued on page 12

²⁸ *Memphis Daily Appeal*, April 26, May 29, 1861.

²⁹ *Memphis Commercial Appeal*, June 11, 1909.

³⁰ *Nashville American*, June 11, 1909.

³¹ *Memphis Commercial Appeal*, June 11, 1909.

³² *Ibid.*

**Celebration, continued from page 10**

despite the suffocating heat.”³³ Apparently, as the evening wore on, a pair of mounted veteran cavalry officers managed to enter the dance floor and “in some manner unexplainable, their horses collided in such a way that both gentlemen were thrown to the ground.” Neither was critically injured – although one of them was “unable to walk home.”³⁴ The nineteenth annual reunion of the United Confederate Veterans concluded and was itself a historical event.³⁵

The celebration of the centennial of the Battle of New Orleans, the famous victory of the United States over the British on January 8, 1815 was attended by a large audience of spectators. It was to be a grand celebration of “Jackson Day,” an annual event that had been observed in less dramatic fashion each January 8, generally with the active involvement of the exclusive guardians of the Seventh President’s reputation and residence, the Ladies Hermitage Association. The event featured a parade, a sham battle, wreath laying, speeches and a banquet, but was not as enormous a spectacle as the Confederate veterans’ episode in Memphis six years earlier.

The “mammoth parade” was led by principal representatives of every branch of Nashville’s bourgeois business, society, and civic life. The parade, seen by thousands, was formed at Ninth Avenue and Broadway and proceeded east to Second Avenue and then to the public square. From that point it was to progress to Fourth Avenue and Deaderick Street and from there to Fourth Avenue and Church Street, continuing until it reached Eighth Avenue where it was “systematically dispersed.” The crowd was then divided, returning to the boulevard and Church Street to limit any confusion. Features of the parade included a long line of automobiles carrying members of the Confederate women’s societies of the city while members of the Commercial Club and the Ladies’ Hermitage Association and members of the Andrew Jackson Memorial association were conspicuous. Hundreds of citizens in public life throughout the state participated in the event, which was organized “to perpetuate the name and fame of ‘Old Hickory.’” It was noted that the event likewise celebrated a century of peace between Great

Britain and the United States and to bring attention to the Jackson Memorial Fund.

Led by marching bands, the Nashville’s Fire and Police departments joined in the “mammoth procession” as well. The city police department was represented by a twenty-four member mounted contingent, and the “fire laddies” paraded on foot. City officials took the lead in the procession; they were followed by companies of uniformed Confederate cavalry and infantry veterans, companies of the Tennessee National Guard, representatives from the Young Men’s Christian association, the Commercial Club, the Nashville Business Men’s association, Builder’s Exchange, humane association, the Tennessee Children’s Home society, as well as the Women’s Equality League. Other civic organizations participated in the parade as well. A special squad of police was on hand to facilitate traffic and handle the expected throng. A special brigade of coonskin cap-wearing volunteer horsemen had been recruited to represent the soldiers of Tennessee and Kentucky who took so prominent part in the battle of New Orleans. The brigade was to be augmented by other similarly attired

volunteer horsemen led by the Davidson county sheriff.

A major feature of the event was a “sham battle,” a reenactment of Jackson’s victory at New Orleans a hundred years earlier. The replica battle scene exceeded all other attractions of the centennial celebration. Companies H and K of the Tennessee National Guard took on the role of the British. Confederate veteran Troop A and Company B were designated to play the part of American forces led by “Old Hickory” Andrew Jackson. The Tennessee Guard troops were dressed in “light marching order” brown, not in replicas of the colorful, red garb of British soldiers of a century earlier. The battle itself was choreographed and directed by National Guard officers. The Confederate veterans were clad in their gray uniforms.³⁶ After a few remarks by politicians and local business leaders, the much anticipated sham battle began. According to a newspaper account:

One feature of the Battle of New Orleans was brought out when many cotton bales were thrown up as a

Celebration, continued on page 13

Confederate veterans man the cotton bale ramparts as the sham Battle of New Orleans Bicentennial was presented. The fact that their Confederate uniforms contradicted historical verisimilitude did not dampen the excitement generated by the event. Additionally, although companies H and K of the Tennessee National Guard played the part of the British, they were not clad in red British army costumes, but wore contemporary U.S. Army uniforms. (Courtesy TSLA)

³³ *Nashville American*, June 11, 1909. The Southern Cross Drill was a lively two step dance.

³⁴ *Memphis Commercial Appeal*, June 11, 1909.

³⁵ It is worth mentioning that the official journal of the United Confederate Veterans had very little to say about the events in Memphis. Neither the encounters with General Grant nor the appearance of Nathan Bedford Forrest III were mentioned. See: *Confederate Veterans*, Vol. XVII, no. 1 (July 1909), 314-316.

³⁶ *Nashville Banner*, January 9, 1915; *Nashville Tennessean and American*, January 5, 1915.

**Celebration, continued from page 10**

breastworks on the west side of the wide Capitol boulevard and behind this the Confederate impersonated the soldiers of Old Hickory....

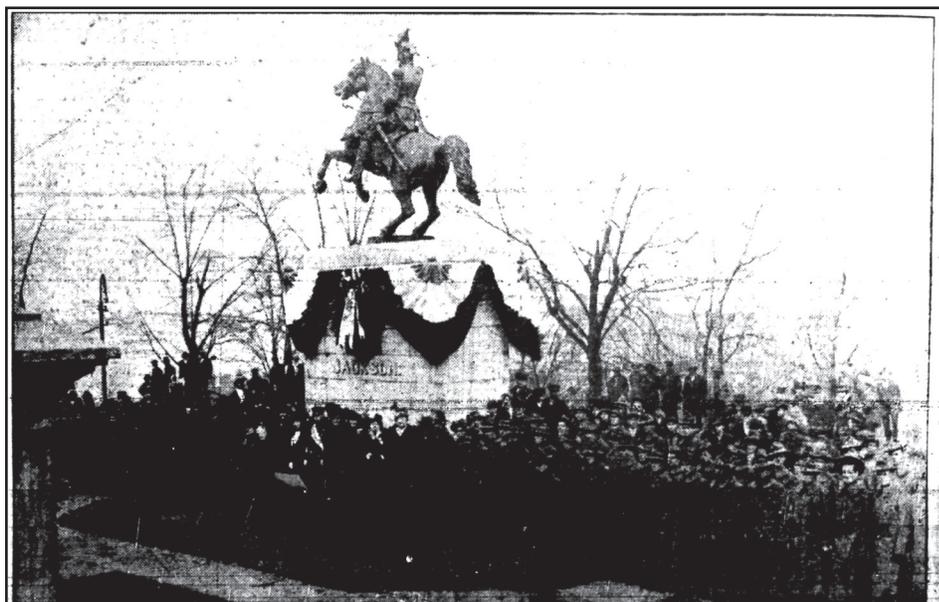
The steady and incessant clatter of the rapid firing guns of the modernly equipped militiamen and the boom of the old model rifles of the Confederates made day hideous for a few minutes before the militia began to retreat even as the British did under Pakenham.

The militia covered their movements by hiding behind a wall until at a signal of their officers they dashed from undercover and made for the breastworks. The fire from the old rifles was too much and they fell back in bad order and the day was won for the soldiers of the phantom leader, Old Hickory Jackson. As the rattle of guns became subdued a dozen white doves, signals of peace, were released by little girls for the Ladies Hermitage Association.³⁷

After the battle had been won and the cheers dwindled, there were speeches extolling the heroic bravery and self-sacrificing, heroic, and patriotic qualities of Andrew Jackson. Speakers included Governor-Elect Thomas Rye and *Nashville Banner* newspaper editor John Stahlman. Following their tribute there was a wreath laying ceremony at the equestrian statue of General Jackson on the Capitol grounds, "the most beautiful and impressive ceremonies of the great event." It fell to the Ladies Hermitage Association, the civic cult of Andrew Jackson, to solemnly gather and place wreaths at the base of the red-white-and-blue draped base of the sculpture in honor of the object of their devotion. The principal speaker, the first regent of the Ladies Hermitage Association, made remarks saying in part:

It is due that we should revere and commemorate as we have on this occasion, their deeds of valor and sacrifice and pay just tribute to Tennessee's greatest soldier and statesman, the American patriot without a peer, Andrew Jackson.

After her remarks another "fifteen white doves were liberated by little girls, and after



Decoration of Jackson statue on Capitol Square on 100th anniversary of the battle of New Orleans. (Courtesy TSLA)

"flying over the battlefield, soldiery and thousands of citizens the homer [sic] pigeons flew in different directions."³⁸

There followed a ceremony of laying wreaths "by several prominent members of the association and leaders in Nashville society and club life" at the equestrian statue of Andrew Jackson, its base festooned in red, white and blue bunting. The first regent of the Ladies Hermitage Association said: "I place this in tribute to the man who made us all free American born citizens today"³⁹

Another wreath was placed at the base of the statue by Mrs. Bettie M. Donelson, who remarked:"

One hundred years ago at the Battle of New Orleans Sir Edward Pakenham's army's watchword was "beauty and booty." As one of the organizers of the Ladies' Hermitage Association, I honor Andrew Jackson as the protector of "beauty and booty" and take pleasure in placing this this simple wreath on his monument.

A total of fifteen wreaths were placed at the base of the monument.

Later that night a grand Jackson Day ball was held for an audience of leading citizens and members of Nashville's fashionable society. Said to be "the biggest event on the

program" it was held appropriately enough at the Hermitage hotel. "This affair is being keenly anticipated, especially by the younger set, and it should prove one of the most pleasing features." It was not open to the public, but restricted to a circumscribed list of elite invited attendees.

"The Ladies Hermitage Association made its celebration of one of one of the most important epochs of our history...a brilliant success...." The decorations in the ball room and the loggia of the hotel were of a "patriotic nature...hundreds of American flags and interesting relics of former wars in the shape of rifles and swords occupied places of honor." The speakers' platform was decorated with shields of the states of Louisiana and Tennessee, while cotton balls were the most common decoration in the ballroom "and great ropes of Jackson vine studded with [cotton] balls six inches in diameter were suspended across the room forming an artistic canopy." Dinner was served at midnight.⁴⁰

These two events were about more than parades and public entertainment, although they certainly did fulfill that purpose. They served as demonstrations to solidify the social status and political power of Civil War veterans and those who venerated Andrew Jackson. It is

Celebration, continued on page 14

³⁷ Ibid. Aside from the cotton bales, historical verisimilitude was not a hallmark of the sham battle. See also: *Nashville Tennessean and American*, January 9, 1915.

³⁸ *Nashville Banner*, January 9, 1915.

³⁹ Ibid. Her remarks about "free born American citizens" excluded foreign born immigrants, believed by many of her status to be a threat to American life and culture, and so to their preeminent status in American life.

⁴⁰ Ibid.

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CERTIFIED LOCAL GOVERNMENT TRAINING WORKSHOP

By Jane-Coleman Cottone, Certified Local
Government Program Coordinator

On August 22nd, THC historic preservation specialists Jane-Coleman Cottone and Rebecca Schmitt traveled to Bolivar to lead a training workshop for Certified Local Governments in West Tennessee. Officials from the City of Bolivar helped organize the event, which was held in the historic Luez Theater on the town square. The building was recently restored by Brad Grantham, the chair of the Bolivar Historic Zoning Commission, and the CLG training was the first event held in the reopened space. Rebecca Schmitt began the program with a presentation about the National Register of Historic Places. Jane-Coleman Cottone offered a review session on the basics of historic zoning, followed by an in-depth discussion of addressing economic hardship and demolition-by-neglect. Jean Carney



Historic Luez Theater



Certified Local Government Workshop, Luez
Theater, Bolivar.

from Brownsville participated by sharing stories of the various preservation planning projects their city has completed using grants from the Historic Preservation Fund. The day was a huge success with participants from Bartlett, Brownsville, Collierville, Covington, LaGrange, Memphis, and Savannah. The Certified Local Government program now regularly offers at least one training opportunity a year in each of Tennessee's grand divisions. The next regional CLG training is scheduled to take place on November 2nd in Clarksville.

Celebration, *continued from page 13*

not going too far to suggest, as Dr. Tom Kannon has perspicaciously submitted, that such parades and celebrations are about more than mere demonstrations of public memory, but are indeed a means of "some interests exerting more power than others,"⁴¹ employing the past as a means of solidifying social and political influence in the present. In both instances, however, public demonstrations such as the parade of the United Confederate Veterans in Memphis in 1909 and the Centennial of the Battle of New Orleans have waned to near obscurity. Indeed, indicative of the loss of public reminiscence, there was no "mammoth procession" to celebrate the bicentennial of the Battle of New Orleans in 2015, and unsurprisingly, as the mortality of Confederate veterans necessarily led to the absolute decline of their numbers, celebrations of the history these two events validated has largely been diminished in public memory.

⁴¹ Tom Kannon, "Forging the 'Hero of New Orleans': Tennessee Looks at the Centennial of the War of 1812," *Tennessee Historical Quarterly*, Vol. LXXI, No. 2. (Summer 2012), 128-161.