



# THE COURIER



VOL. XLVII, NO. 2

TENNESSEE HISTORICAL COMMISSION, NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

JUNE 2009

## THC Welcomes New Chairman



In February, Sam Elliott of Signal Mountain became the new chairman of the Tennessee Historical Commission. Mr. Elliott succeeds Norm Hill of Murfreesboro, who completed three terms as chair. Appointed to the Commission in 2005, Mr. Elliott is a member of the Chattanooga law firm of Gearhiser, Peters, Lockaby, Cavett & Elliott. Elliott is a former President of the Friends of the Chickamauga and Chattanooga National

Military Park, and is a member of the board of the Tennessee Civil War Preservation Association. Mr. Elliott is also Vice President of the Tennessee Bar Association and will succeed to the offices of President-

elect in June, 2009 and President in June, 2010. He and his wife Karen have two daughters, Mary Claire and Sarah Anne.

Mr. Elliott is the author or editor of two books on Tennesseans in the Civil War, *Soldier of Tennessee: General Alexander P. Stewart* and the *Civil War in the West* (1999) and *Doctor Quintard: Chaplain C. S. A. and Second Bishop of Tennessee* (2003). Mr. Elliott's third book, *Isham G. Harris of Tennessee: Confederate Governor and United States Senator*, will be published later this year. Chairman Elliott looks forward to continuing to develop the programs of the Commission in the next two years. Regarding his election, Mr. Elliott stated: "I am grateful to my fellow members of the Tennessee Historical Commission for the great honor of succeeding our colleague Norm Hill as chairman. Together, we will continue to work with our dedicated staff to preserve, protect, and interpret the history of our great state for our present and future citizens."

### FEDERAL PRESERVATION GRANTS

The Tennessee Historical Commission is accepting grant applications for historic preservation projects for the 2009-2010 fiscal year. These grants, which are federally funded, will be available after October 1, 2009. The precise amount of funds which will be available in Tennessee for such grants will not be known until Congress has passed the FY 2009-2010 budget; however, it is expected to be in the range of \$400,000. After review, applications will be rated and ranked. Decisions on those to be funded will be made when the exact amount of the allocation is known. This may be as late as next spring depending on when the Congress completes work on the FY-2010 Budget.

As in the past, the selection process will emphasize projects for the conducting of architectural, archaeological, and historic site surveys. Such projects are designed to identify and record historic districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects significant to Tennessee's history and built before 1960. Surveys may be for a specific geographic area or for sites associated with themes or events significant in the state's history, such as the development of railroads in the nineteenth century, or the development of motor tourism in the twentieth century. Priorities for funding survey projects will include areas which are experiencing rapid growth and development or other threats to cultural resources, areas where there are serious gaps in knowledge regarding cultural resources,

and thematic surveys based upon existing historic study units produced by the SHPO.

In addition to historic surveys, assistance is available for other types of historic preservation projects. These may include preservation planning studies for towns, neighborhoods, and historic districts, the preparation of nominations to the National Register of Historic Places, planning or pre-development work necessary to undertake restoration of an historic property, and restoration of historic properties (for restoration or restoration pre-planning, properties must be listed on the National Register of Historic Places). Unless appropriations are significantly increased, funds for restoration projects will be limited; however, THC always encourages quality applications of this type. Applications for projects to prepare nominations to the National Register of Historic Places are a priority and are also encouraged.

The grants are matching grants and will pay for up to 60% of the costs of approved project work. The remaining 40% must be provided by the grantee as matching funds.

Applications for grants are available from the Tennessee Historical Commission, 2941 Lebanon Road, Nashville, Tennessee 37243-0442. For further information or for an application, contact the Tennessee Historical Commission at (615) 532-1550. Applications may also be downloaded from the Tennessee Historical Commission Website, [www.tdec.net/hist/federal/presgrnt.shtml](http://www.tdec.net/hist/federal/presgrnt.shtml). Completed applications must be submitted by SEPTEMBER 1, 2009.

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

The Tennessee Historical Commission will meet on June 12, 2009, 9:00 a.m. at Historic Cragfont, Sumner County. The meeting is open to the public.

You can find this issue of *The COURIER* and back issues dating from October, 2003, at the Tennessee Historical Commission's web page at [www.state.tn.us/environment/hist](http://www.state.tn.us/environment/hist). Click on the State Programs Menu to find the newsletter. For information on the Civil War in the Volunteer State visit [www.tennessee.civilwarsourcebook.com](http://www.tennessee.civilwarsourcebook.com).



## TENNESSEE WARS COMMISSION ACTIVITIES' REPORT

Fred M. Prouty, Director of Programs

### SUMMARY OF SELECTED PROJECTS UNDERTAKEN BY THE TENNESSEE WARS COMMISSION IN 2008.

The Tennessee Wars Commission has completed another successful year of service. The following report highlights several milestone events of our 14th year.

The Tennessee Wars Commission was awarded Federal Enhancement Funding from Governor Phil Bredesen totaling \$3,019,840. The funds will facilitate preservation and interpretation projects at Fort Donelson Battlefield in Dover, Tennessee, Shiloh National Military Park in Hardin County, Davis Bridge Battlefield in McNairy and Hardeman Counties, and Parker's Crossroads Battlefield in Henderson County.

A new Wars Commission publication entitled, *Ready to Die for Liberty*, is ready for publication. It tells the story of Tennessee African Americans before, during, and after the Civil War. A "student friendly" edition should be ready for publication in 2009.

The Wars Commission is now delivering its new Tennessee Civil War Trail Brochure, "*A Path Divided, Tennessee's Civil War Heritage Trail*" to all Tennessee State Welcome Centers. Over 125,000 brochures have been printed and for distribution during 2009. The *Path Divided* brochure is the most requested state brochure at our eleven Welcome Centers.

The Tennessee Department of Tourist Development announced the Tennessee Civil War Trails program is expanding across the state. The Tennessee Wars and Historical Commissions have worked to encourage the funding and creation of a Tennessee Civil War Trail System partnering with our state tourism department.

Tennessee Civil War Preservation Association (TCWPA) received Wars Commission funds for the TCWPA's current preservation, administrative, and educational programs. The money will partly fund the Tennessee Battlefield Assessment Program (TBAP) website.

Tennessee Historical Commission Executive Director Patrick McIntyre and Tennessee Wars Commission Director of Programs Fred Prouty are board members of Governor Phil Bredesen's Tennessee Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission. Board members met throughout 2008 to discuss implementation plans for the Tennessee Civil War Trails system and reviewed directions for other activities in connection with Tennessee's Civil War Sesquicentennial in 2010.

The Tennessee Wars Commission recently funded and developed in cooperation with the Bledsoe's Lick Historical Association an extensive plan to address issues related to the preservation, management, and interpretation of four significant

historic sites in the Castilian Springs, Tennessee area. Wynnewood State Historic Site, Castilian Springs Mound Site, Bledsoe's Fort, and Hawthorne Hill are discussed at length in the report and included an "action plan." The plan forms the basis for historic tourism development in the area and has the potential to develop an interpretive "park" atmosphere, explaining the area's historic resources ranging from 10,000 years ago to early frontier settlements.

Wars Commission Director Prouty and Executive Director Dan Brown of the Tennessee Preservation Trust (TPT) met with officials of H.C.A. Hospitals to discuss the possibilities of preserving Spring Hill Battlefield viewsheds and green space near the proposed HCA Spring Hill hospital site, located to the east of battlefield property. HCA, Wars Commission, and TPT officials discussed the battlefields sensitive viewsheds and ways to preserve them. The Civil War Preservation Trust again named Spring Hill's battlefield to its annual list of sites facing the greatest threat of being lost to development.

In 2008 the Tennessee Wars Commission agreed to hold conservation easements on land acquired at Fort Donelson through the efforts of the Civil War Preservation Trust (CWPT) and the National Park Service, American Battlefield Protection Program (ABPP). Easements were obtained through the State Lands Acquisition Committee and were additionally approved by the State Building Commission. The State has now obtained an option to acquire interests in many acres of endangered core battlefield land at Fort Donelson and several other significant Tennessee battlefield sites, making these "hallowed grounds" an official state conservation easement.

In August of 2008 the Tennessee Wars Commission received a TEA-21 Enhancement Grant from Governor Phil Bredesen for \$929,132. The Wars Commission submitted the application in 2007 for TEA-21 Enhancement Grant Funds for the rehabilitation of the Pocahontas Schoolhouse as an interpretive center for the Davis Bridge Battlefield. The application also requested funding for the creation and instillation of an interpretive trail system for the 860 acre Davis Bridge Battlefield. The Trail will include interpretive signage and kiosk, handicapped accessible pedestrian trails, and a pedestrian bridge across the Hatchie River. The grant also includes brochures, website and placement of replica artillery pieces at strategic points in the battlefield.

During the fiscal year 2007-2008 the Tennessee Wars Commission received an \$864,500 funding grant from the Tennessee Heritage Conservation Trust Fund (THCTF) to

complete the purchase of 643 acres of endangered Battlefield property at Davis Bridge in Hardeman and McNairy County. The THCTF grant was matched by project partners the American Battlefield Protection Program (\$864,500), and the Civil War Preservation Trust (\$200,000), for a total of \$1,929,000. With the addition of this property, approximately 98 percent of the original battlefield acreage is preserved and contains over 860 acres of "hallowed ground." On February 7, 2008, the Tennessee State Lands Acquisition Committee approved a \$61,000.00 Wars Commission funding request for administrative costs connected with the Davis Bridge Battlefield property acquisition of 643 acres. This brings the total 2007-2008 Tennessee Wars Commission requested grant funding to \$1,990,000.

Additionally, an urgent plea was made to the Tennessee Heritage Conservation Trust Fund (THCTF) on behalf of the Parker's Crossroads Battlefield Preservation Association to help secure 87 acres of endangered core battlefield property for sale at the Battlefield in Henderson County. The request for \$300,000 was approved and matched by \$400,000.00 obtained from the Tennessee Lands Acquisition Fund and \$100,000 granted by the Civil War Preservation Trust. The \$800,000 purchase has now been closed and property will be incorporated into the existing 206-acre battlefield interpretive program.

In October 2008 production began on an educational documentary film about the Battle of Johnsonville (November 4, 1864). The production, funded by the Wars Commission, will aid in interpreting the battle at the proposed Johnsonville State Historic Area Welcome and Interpretive Center in Humphrys County. The film is produced by the Renaissance Center Multi-Media Department of Dickson, Tennessee, creators of award winning educational films for Tennessee Civil War projects. The narrated film will present compilation of interviews, historical documents and illustrations, underwater archaeological reports, and archival photos.

Comments and suggestion are welcome:

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## Report on National Register Activities

by the Tennessee State Historic Preservation Office

By Claudette Stager and Brian Beadles, National Register Division Staff, State Historic Preservation Office

Since the last issue of *The Courier* there have been seven entries from the National Register of Historic Places. The properties are: Forrest Park, Shelby County; Arthur J. Dyer Observatory, Davidson County; River View Mounds, Montgomery County; Church Street Methodist Church, Knox County; Abston Garage, Roane County; Gammon House, Sullivan County; and Garrett House, Lawrence County.

Five properties were removed from the National Register because they no longer existed. They are: Bivvins House, Bedford County; Alcoa South Plant Office, Blount County; Batte-Brown-Blackburn House, Giles County; Fairview School, Hickman County; and Minglewood Farm, Montgomery County.

There are now 2010 entries in the National Register for Tennessee including 267 districts, for a total of 40,983 resources now listed.

Two of the more recent listings are discussed below.

### Church Street Methodist Church

Church Street Methodist Church in Knoxville represents the work of several designers. Built in 1930-31 it was designed by the architectural firms of John Russell Pope and Charles Barber. Constructed of Crab Orchard sandstone it features a front tower and a courtyard with arched openings. The church also contains a collection of stained glass windows produced by the Charles Connick Studio of Boston and installed between 1941 and 1956.

John Russell Pope was a graduate of Columbia University in New York and the Ecole des Beaux-arts in Paris, and apprenticed with McKim Mead & White before opening his own firm in 1905. He was known for designing mansions for some of America's wealthiest families. Pope was also the designer of public buildings such as city halls, libraries, and museums including plans and buildings at Dartmouth, Yale, Johns Hopkins, and Syracuse universities. Pope's work is probably best known for his Neoclassical-style public commissions in Washington, DC, including the National Archives in 1930, and the Jefferson Memorial (1935). He rarely designed churches, and it has been suggested that most of the churches attributed to Pope were generally done by his associate Otto Eggers.

Charles Barber, who by 1928 was a member of Church Street United Methodist Church, was the principal designer in the Knoxville architectural firm of Barber & McMurry. The son of prominent Knoxville architect George F. Barber, he had worked in his father's office since 1913, pursuing studies including some time spent at the Ecole des Beaux Arts. Barber designed country manors as well as many public buildings and was known as one of the outstanding church designers in the southeast during the 1940s and 1950s. Charles Barber's firm also planned many of the collegiate buildings at the Knoxville campus of the University of Tennessee and during the 1930s was the Chief Architect for the Tennessee Valley Authority.

The stained glass windows were designed and manufactured by Charles J. Connick of Boston, one of the leaders of the design and manufacture of

stained glass in the twentieth century. When Connick died in 1945 he left the studio to a group of craftsmen who were working there at the time. They kept the studio active until it closed in 1986. The studio also became a gathering point for artists and musicians

Unlike many of his contemporaries, Connick used transparent, or 'antique', glass reminiscent medieval traditions of stained glass. He stressed the interrelation between changing light, color, and texture. Connick felt that his greatest contribution was "rescuing it from the abysmal depth of opalescent (opaque) picture windows of the sort popularized by Louis Comfort Tiffany, John La Farge and their followers." Connick wrote his book *Adventures in Light and Color*, stressing that stained glass is a way of transforming light and color to form a work of art. In his eyes, "the stained glass window belongs to Brother Sun and is in itself a mighty symbol of his natural beauty and power that may be translated into a new symbol of spiritual beauty."

Since the time of its construction, Church Street United Methodist Church has been a significant landmark in Knoxville. Its sandstone exterior and architectural detailing led President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, on a 1940 trip through Knoxville to dedicate the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, to declare it "... the most beautiful church I have ever seen."

### Dyer Observatory

Built under the guidance of well-known astronomer Carl K. Seyfert, the 1953 Dyer Observatory has been an important research facility for Vanderbilt University. It continues today to be used for research and public outreach. While under Seyfert's tenure the observatory was built and the innovative telescope was completed.

Carl Seyfert was known for his work in classifying the Seyfert Galaxies. In 1943 Seyfert identified this class of galaxies comprising ten percent of all galaxies and are among the most studied objects in astronomy; many are now thought to have giant black holes at their centers.

At the heart of the observatory is the original twenty-four-inch Baker Reflector-Corrector telescope. Instead, the primary mirror, as well as the secondary mirrors, are made with Pyrex. The primary mirror alone weighs 175 pounds. The telescope weighs about one-half ton, and is counterbalanced by weights to bring the full weight of the total apparatus to approximately one ton (not including the mounting). The counterbalances allow the telescope

to be moved by hand. Additionally, two small precision motors move the telescope at a rate that is comparable to half that of a watch's hour hand.

The telescope is versatile and was among the first of its kind to be constructed. Its design allows the telescope length to be half as long as a comparable telescope designed by Bernard Schmidt with the same optical capabilities. Developed by Dr. James G. Baker of the Harvard College Observatory, the main telescope at the Dyer Observatory is a modified version of a Schmidt telescope known as a Baker-Schmidt telescope or Baker Reflector-Collector. Additionally it

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Church Street Methodist Church Photo by Brian Beadles.



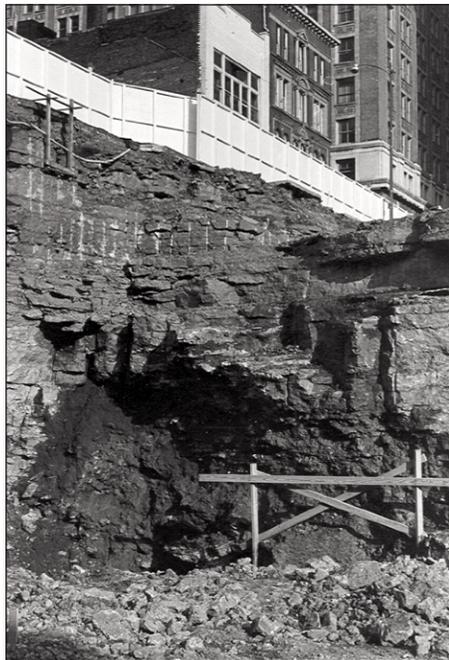
Dyer Observatory Photo by Brian Beadles.



## THE FIRST AMERICAN CAVE SITE REVISITED

Aaron Deter-Wolf,  
Tennessee Division of Archaeology

In August of 1971, the partial skeleton of a sabertoothed cat (*Smilodon floridanus*) was discovered during construction of the First American National Bank at the corner of 4th and Union Streets in downtown Nashville. This find captured the attention of the public, and was the subject of numerous local and national general-interest articles during the early 1970s. The *Smilodon* became an integral



TDOA Site Files, photograph by the author

part of Nashville iconography in 1997 when it was selected as the logo for the Predators hockey team and the inspiration for their mascot, Gnash. Despite the initial interest that the find generated and the recent prevalence of sabertooth imagery along lower Broadway, the cave site was largely forgotten by the late-1970s, and was not revisited again by archaeologists until 2008. This past fall staff from the Tennessee Division of Archaeology reentered the cave in order to assess its condition 37 years after its discovery.

The cave site was first identified in 1971 during mechanical excavations of what would become the foundation of the First American National Bank. According to news reports at the time, one of the contractors removing blasted limestone bedrock for the building foundation noticed bone in the bucket of his excavator, and stopped to examine the material. The first bone that emerged from the bucket was a 9-inch long upper maxillary canine, the iconic fang of a sabertooth cat.

Following identification of the bones, the developer halted work and contacted Vanderbilt University and the Southeastern Indian Antiquities Survey (SIAS). The SIAS arranged to conduct excavations at the site during the fall of 1971. Newspaper reports from the time indicate that more than 1,000 bones were recovered as a result of the excavations. John Guilday of the Carnegie Museum of Natural History in Pittsburgh, PA subsequently examined these finds and published his results in the July 1977 issue of the *Journal of the Tennessee Academy of Sciences*. That article constitutes the only scientific publication on the First American cave site.

Geologic analysis revealed that the *Smilodon* bones were situated within the remnants of a mud and clay-filled cave approximately 30-feet below ground surface. Eighty to 90 percent of the cave was destroyed by construction efforts prior to identification of the *Smilodon* remains. Consequently it is not clear how large the cavern was, or where the original entrance to the cave was situated. Archaeologists have since suggested that the cavern connected to the ground surface via a small vertical shaft or sinkhole that was built over sometime during the historic period.

In addition to the single maxillary canine, archaeologists recovered more than 100 fragments of the *Smilodon* skeleton. Guilday noted that based on the level of bone preservation the skeleton was likely complete prior to construction efforts. The bones of several late Pleistocene mammals (ca. 130,000–10,000 years ago) were also recovered from nearby the sabertooth remains. These included partial skeletons of now-extinct species such as mastodon, ice-age horse, and peccary. Additional late Pleistocene remains were recovered from off-site backdirt piles where they had been inadvertently dumped by mechanical equipment prior to the archaeological effort.

Collagen extracted from the *Smilodon* bones was radiocarbon dated to 7460 $\pm$ 155 and 8085 $\pm$ 650 B.C. These dates are extremely late for the presence of *Smilodon* in the region, and overlap human occupations along the Middle Cumberland by at least 1,000 years. It has been suggested based on these dates that the sabertooth cat found beneath the bank was the one of the last of its

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### National Register ...continued

can also be configured to work as a Cassegrain or as a Newtonian reflecting telescope.

The telescope can be configured in two ways. In the reflector-collector configuration, there is a twenty-four-inch primary mirror placed at the lower end of the telescope. Near the upper end of the telescope is the reflector-collector plate. This consists of a twenty-four-inch ring-shaped glass plate with an eleven-inch achromatic lens centered in the plate. In this system light from the stars and the sky passes through the glass plate to the bottom end of the telescope where it is reflected off the primary mirror. The light then passes through the eleven-inch achromatic lens, which focuses the light to a point near the top of the telescope. A photographic plate, or any other kind of light sensor, can be placed in the focal plane to produce photographs.

In order to convert the telescope to work as a Cassegrain or Newtonian reflecting telescope the reflector-collector plate is removed and replaced with a secondary mirror. In the Cassegrain design light is reflected off the primary mirror to the secondary mirror. The light is then reflected off the secondary mirror back down the telescope tube and passes through a five-inch hole in the center of the primary mirror to an eyepiece for viewing. In the Newtonian configuration the secondary mirror is angled so that the reflected light is directed to an eyepiece on the side of the telescope.

The telescope is mounted onto a concrete pier resting on its own foundation independent of the rest of the building. The mounting mechanism was constructed by the J. W. Fecker Company of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. The optical elements of the telescope were made by the Perkin-Elmer Corporation of Norwalk, Connecticut.

In order to build the observatory an unusual tactic was used. Instead of asking for money to finance the construction, in-kind services and donations of materials were requested. In all, eighty firms and foundations were involved donating time or materials, including sand and gravel, concrete blocks, bricks, reinforcing steel, electrical materials, doors, glass and hardware.

One major benefactor was Arthur J. Dyer, owner of the Nashville Bridge Company. The metal domes over the telescope and the planetarium were built by his firm. The main dome is twenty-four feet in diameter and is constructed of quarter inch steel.

Although the primary purposes of the Dyer Observatory were research and providing graduate training in astronomy and astrophysics, because the community at large played such a significant part in its construction, it is committed to serving the public. Today as in 1953, the observatory is regularly open to the public for school tours, popular lectures, observation nights, and other programs.



### Cave Site Revisited ...continued

kind, and lived contemporaneously with prehistoric peoples. However, no additional archaeological evidence supports the overlap of sabertooth cats with prehistoric people in North America, and scientists generally believe that *Smilodon* were extinct prior to the arrival of humans in the Western Hemisphere. Consequently the radiocarbon dates from the First American site are regarded with some skepticism.

The 1971 excavations also recovered portions of four human burials and the remains of several modern species from a separate, more recent zone within the remaining cave area. That zone was separated from the late Pleistocene remains by approximately 16-feet of muddy clay soil, and postdates the *Smilodon* remains by at least 10,000 years. Animal remains from the upper zone included those of mole, snake, raccoon, rabbit, bobcat, skunk, and squirrel. The human remains were identified as bundle burials dating to the Woodland period (ca. 1000 B.C.–850 A.D.). The upper zone of the cave was totally removed during subsequent bank construction.

Because of interest that the site generated, First American National Bank redesigned the building to preserve the remaining intact portion of the site for future archaeological investigations. The building foundation was vaulted over the remaining cave, creating a small artificial cavern beneath the lowest level of the bank's parking garage. This space was made accessible via a steel hatch and 20-foot ladder bolted into the concrete substructure. In August of 1973 *Time Magazine* reported that the bank was preparing to let archaeologists resume excavation. However, no additional investigations ever took place.

The next documented entry into the site occurred in June of 1978, when the *Tennessean* reported on a group of cavers from the Nashville Grotto who visited the site but were underwhelmed by the small size of the remaining cavern and absence of any open passages. The next entry into the cave did not occur for 26 years. In 2004, the site was used to hold vibration monitors collecting data during blasting for the new Courthouse Square, located one block northeast of the bank. No archaeologists were present during either the 1978 or 2004 reentries to the cave, and no excavations were conducted at the site during either visit.

Today the building located at 4th and Union Streets is the main Nashville Branch of Regions Bank. A display in the first floor

lobby includes basic information and photos from the site, as well as approximately 40 bones from the *Smilodon* and various other animal species. The sabertooth remains on display include portions of the ribs, vertebrae, jaw, and left leg. A replica cast of an intact *Smilodon* skull from the La Brea Tar Pits site in California serves as the centerpiece of the exhibit. The sabertooth fang that led to the site discovery is not included in the lobby display.

The last known images of the fang found beneath the bank appear in a November 1975



TDOA Site Files, original image courtesy John Dowd

article for the *Memphis Commercial Appeal's Mid-South Magazine*. Photographs from that article show an earlier version of the site display located on the ground floor of the building. In those images, the canine is exhibited alongside the replica *Smilodon* skull and a number of bones from the Woodland burials. The ultimate disposition of both the fang and the human remains is unknown. Conventional wisdom among bank and building management personnel is that the sabertooth canine was given to the Smithsonian; however, that institution has no record of receiving the artifact. Beyond the lobby display it is unclear which, if any, of the original >1,000 bones from the site are still in the possession of the bank.

In August of 2008, TDOA archaeologists arranged to enter the First American cave site in order to examine its condition and assess the possibility of additional paleofaunal (ice-age animal) remains. The site is off-limits to the public, but was still accessible via the secure lower level of the parking garage. Beneath the metal hatch, the access ladder descends into an artificial cavern approximately 8 feet wide by 25 feet long. The foundation of the parking deck comprises approximately half of the walls of this space, while the other half consist of blasted limestone bedrock. Both the bedrock and concrete are replaced below the base of the

ladder by the same muddy reddish-brown clay that filled the entire cave prior to discovery.

Only a small portion of the original cave remains beneath the bank building. The remnants of the natural cavern extend only 5-feet below the base of the access ladder, and run underneath the concrete foundation for a total area of less than 75 square feet. The floor of the cave is wet as a result of natural moisture moving through the surrounding bedrock. Small pools of standing water and fragments of rusted metal from the building substructure are scattered across the muddy surface. The soil contained small fragments of natural limestone and a handful of tiny marine fossils that originated in the surrounding bedrock. No artifacts or bones were observed during the visit.

TDOA archaeologists determined that the damp clay soils that fill the remaining cavern have not been heavily disturbed, and are therefore likely to contain additional paleofaunal remains that could be recovered through careful excavation. These soils are situated below the level where the *Smilodon* remains were identified in 1971. Consequently, they almost certainly predate any human occupation in Tennessee, and therefore are not considered archaeological in nature. Nevertheless, the cave beneath the bank still holds research interest for any paleontologist or geologist studying ice-age fauna.

### HISTORICAL MARKERS

At its meeting on February 20, 2009, the Tennessee Historical Commission approved six historical markers: **Johnson City Sessions**, Washington County; **Battle of Johnsonville**, Fort Hill and **Yellow Bank Trestle**, Humphreys County; **First United Methodist Church**, Gibson County; and **Paul W. Barret** (1899-1976), Shelby County.

Those interested in submitting proposed texts for markers are urged to contact Linda T. Wynn at the Tennessee Historical Commission, 2941 Lebanon Road, Nashville, Tennessee 37243-0442, or call (615) 532-1550.



## Certified Local Government

Rob Crawford

One of the most effective ways to protect a community's heritage is by establishing historic districts. A historic district is an area with a definable concentration of buildings, sites, or other items associated with past events, city growth, or architectural design, or which otherwise have aesthetic value. There are two types of districts: national and local.

A national district is one that is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Various tax incentives may be available to the owners of contributing properties in the district, and the National Register may protect the buildings from adverse effects of federally funded projects; however, the National Register provides no protection from private demolition or inappropriate alteration.

A local district is established by enacting a local municipal ordinance. Administered by a local historic zoning commission, its guidelines specify appropriate types of alterations in the district's character. The commission reviews applications for all exterior alteration, addition, construction, and other related changes. Local historic districts are the only public means of stopping demolition and neglect. First used in Charleston, South Carolina, in 1931, today they are one of the most popular methods of preserving a community's history, with over 2,300 found nationwide.

Local district designation is a powerful tool of historic preservation and of broader city planning. Whereas a national district provides only limited measures against potential adverse effects stemming from federal projects, local designation allows citizens to protect their property from demolition, neglect, and to ensure the architectural, historic, and visual character of an area. It controls changes and directs progress by protecting the integrity of buildings and the cohesiveness of the area according to the guidelines adopted by the neighborhood.

Because it helps create a sense of neighborhood and community pride, stabilizes the neighborhood, directs growth by encouraging maintenance and discouraging inappropriate changes, discourages absenteeism, and has a positive effect on property value. One of the best benefits of local district designation is that, in addition to underlying municipal zoning, it helps maintain a predictable framework in which community decisions can be made so that, even as owners come and go over time, those areas which make your community unique will retain their character.

In Tennessee, local districts are regulated by Title 13, Chapter 7, Part 4 of the *Tennessee*

*Code Annotated*. It is important to note that the state law enables local governments to enact historic zoning laws; it does not itself protect historic resources. It serves to recognize local protection measures as authoritative, so local lawmakers, historic zoning commissioners, and planners have a special responsibility to act as good stewards of the historic resources in their communities.

Communities that have effective local historic districts can have their preservation efforts "certified" through the Certified Local Government Program. Certified Local Governments, or CLGs, are more competitive when seeking grant funding and technical assistance from the state historic commission and thus better able to realize the preservation goals of their community.

One of the most important things a local historic zoning commission can do is to "network" with other organizations and government departments within the local community. Becoming certified further expands your community's preservation network beyond its borders and puts your preservation staff and commissioners in contact with their counterparts in communities around the state. Many historic zoning commissions believe they are succeeding by not being noticed – by "flying under the radar" within their community. As laudable as it is to avoid situations that galvanize the community – and it is impossible to avoid them forever – it is better still to succeed because the mission of your commission is widely and publicly understood and appreciated. The CLG network builds relationships that are productive, proactive, and valuable sources of information – especially in a crisis.

CLGs are known statewide for preservation leadership and some CLGs even become nationally recognized as outstanding examples of effective historic preservation. The greater the recognition, the greater the economic benefits that will be felt in your community in every area from sales tax to tourism to real estate.

A community can become a CLG if it meets state and federal requirements. Among these requirements are

- your city, county, or metropolitan government has enacted a proper historic preservation ordinance
- your community has established a historic zoning commission comprised of five to nine members with preservation knowledge and experience that commission has adopted – and

consistently applies – review guidelines which comply with the current Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties

For applications and information on the application process, please contact the Tennessee Historical Commission:

2941 Lebanon Rd.  
Nashville, TN 37214  
(615)532-1550, ext. 114  
[Rob.Crawford@tn.gov](mailto:Rob.Crawford@tn.gov)

### Published by the TENNESSEE HISTORICAL COMMISSION

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Tennessee Historical Commission, Authorization Number 327324, 27,000 copies yearly. This public document was promulgated at a cost of \$.15 per copy. Printed by State of Tennessee Printing and Media Services Division, Andrew Jackson Building, Nashville, TN 37243-0540.

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## P U B L I C A T I O N S T O N O T E

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University of Alabama Press, Box 870380, Tuscaloosa, Alabama 35487-0380 has published the following: *Speaking with the Ancestors: Mississippian Stone Statuary of the Tennessee-Cumberland Region* by Kevin E. Smith and James V. Miller, who, over the last twenty years, researched over eighty-eight possible examples of southeastern Mississippian stone statuary, dating as far back as a thousand years, discovered along the river valley of the interior Southeast. Separate and together, the authors measured, analyzed, photographed, and traced the known history of the forty-two examples that appear in this volume. Collecting data from both early documents and public and private collections, Smith and Miller informs the reader that the statuary should not be viewed as regional expressions of a broader body of art, ritual, and belief. Together, Smith, and Miller, bring forth and depict all known examples of the Tennessee-Cumberland statuary. *Speaking with the Ancestors* is the first systematic effort to document their archaeological context, and to put forward their significance as a distinctive Mississippian art form. Paper, \$38.50.

Publications of the University of Georgia Press, 330 Research Drive, Athens, Georgia 30602-4901 includes the following: *The Civil Rights Reader: American Literature from Jim Crow to Reconciliation*, edited by Julie Buckner Armstrong and Amy Schmidt is an anthology of drama, essays, fiction, and poetry that focuses on creative writing beyond the familiar modern civil rights 1954-1968 chronology to include works from the 1890s to the present. In ways that historical documents cannot, these collected writings demonstrate how Americans negotiated the process of defining national values such as freedom, justice, and equality. Armstrong and Schmidt have gathered the works of some of the most influential writers to engage issues of race and social justice in America. The first of its kind, *The Civil Rights Reader* is an important contribution to both the cultural and the literary history of the African-American freedom struggle. Paper, \$24.95.

Edited by Sarah Wilkerson Freeman and Beverly Greene Bond, *Tennessee Women: Their Lives and Times* focuses on the lives of individual women. The eighteen biographical essays written by leading historians of women direct attention from the more conventional androcentric perspective, place women and their experiences at center stage in Tennessee's history. Freeman and Bond through the contributors, portray the richness and variety of voices in this collective portrait of Tennessee women includes suffragists, civil rights activists, reformers, and influential participants in politics and the music industries of Nashville and Memphis. This collection brings to

the forefront unrevealed historical elements that give readers a better insight into Tennessee's place within human rights movements and its role as a generator of extraordinary cultural life. This book makes a major contribution to American women's history, southern history, and especially to the history of the Volunteer State. Paper, \$24.95.

Louisiana State University Press, 3990 West Lakeshore Drive, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70808 has published the following: *Race and Liberty in the New Nation: Emancipation in Virginia from the Revolution to Nat Turner's Rebellion* by Eva Sheppard Wolfe examines how ordinary Virginia citizens wrestled with the dilemma of slavery in a social order committed to universal freedom. Wolf broadens the reader's understanding of important concepts as freedom, slavery, emancipation, and race in the formative years of the American republic. She frames her research around the moment between slavery and emancipation and zooms in on relations between blacks and whites in a slave society. Wolf through an in-depth analysis of archival records, particularly those dealing with manumission between 1782 and 1806, reveals how entrenched beliefs shaped thought and behavior. *Race and Liberty in the New Nation* makes known how white attitudes hardened during the half-century that followed the declaration that "all men are created equal." Paper, \$24.95.

The Donning Company Publishers, 184 Business Park Drive, Suite 206, Virginia Beach, Virginia 23462 has published the following in conjunction with the Tennessee Electric Cooperative Association and its official publication, *The Tennessee Magazine: Barns of Tennessee* by Caneta Hankins and Michael Gavin is a limited edition photographically documenting Tennessee's barns. A project of the Tennessee Electric Cooperative Association and its official publication, *The Tennessee Magazine*, the project began in 2007 with a request to the magazine's readers to share photographs and stories of and about their barns. Hankins, assistant director of the Center for Historic Preservation at Middle Tennessee State University and Gavin, a preservation specialist for the Tennessee Civil War National Heritage Area, compiled historic references to the 375 photographs and tales about types of barns, functions in the lifestyles of Tennessee farmers. A tribute to Tennessee's agrarian history, *Barns of Tennessee* will be a pictorial keepsake. Cloth, \$45.00.

Publications of The University of Kentucky Press, 633 South Limestone Street, Lexington, Kentucky 40508 include: *The Lost State of Franklin: America's First Session*, written by Kevin T. Barksdale, investigates the rise and fall of the state that incited violence and conflict

during the years following the American Revolution. Barksdale outlines the debate over whether Franklin was a product of revolutionary spirit or of political and economic greed. The Franklin statehood movement emerged from the unstable political and economic climate that the Articles of Confederation produced directly after the formation of the United States. Going beyond discussions about regional history, *The Lost State of Franklin* offers a history of this miscarried withdrawal and its romanticized legacy. Barksdale directs the reader's attention to this futile insurrection, reminding readers of the fragile nature of America's young independence. Cloth, \$50.00.

Edited by James Oliver Horton, the Benjamin Banneker's and Lois E. Horton's *Slavery and Public History: The Tough Stuff of American Memory* analyzes how people remember their past and how those memories influence American politics and culture. Essays contributed respected historians including Ira Berlin David W. Blight and Gary B. Nash make this a major contribution to the debate about the significance of slavery and its meaning for racial reconciliation. An excellent text for museum studies and public history, this volume illuminate the challenges faced by those who interpret slavery outside institutions of higher learning. Paper, \$19.95.

Publications of The University of Tennessee Press, 110 Conference Center, 110 Henley Street, Knoxville, Tennessee 37996-4108 included the following:

The University of Tennessee Press has republished Walter T. Durham's *Nashville: The Occupied City, 1862-1863* and *Reluctant Partners: Nashville and the Union, 1863-1965*. Durham traces Nashville's transition from Rebel control to Union occupation. Together, these books highlight the importance of local Civil War history assessing the impact of the war on the civilian population.. Durham, in *Nashville: The Occupied City* examines the first seventeen months of the Union occupation, demonstrating how the local population coped with an enemy force. In *Reluctant Partners*, he depicts a city coming to grips with the fading prospect of a Confederate victory and how its citizens began to cooperate with the Union. With new prefaces discussing the historiography over the last twenty, these two works offer an absorbing view of Union occupation at local levels. Students and scholars of the Civil War who share an interest in its social dimensions will find these new editions invaluable. Cloth, \$45.00 each.



## Tennessee Preservation Trust's 2009 List of the "Ten Most Endangered Historic Sites in Tennessee"

- 1) **Hufstедler Cemetery/Pinckney's Tomb, Linden, Perry County.**  
This tomb is a rare example of 19th century vernacular, dry-stone constructed rural cemetery architecture. The foundation has begun to fail and there is a lack of financial resources to provide for necessary repairs.
- 2) **Shelbyville Dam on the Duck River, Shelbyville, Bedford County.**  
This site is an early c.1915 electrical power producing facility/plant along the Duck River; there were in fact several dams along the Duck River that produced power for the towns in the Duck River Watershed. Power was no longer produced at this site after approximately February 1948. It was abandoned by TVA and sold to the City of Shelbyville in November 1950.
- 3) **Graham-Kivette House, Tazewell, Claiborne County.** The Graham-Kivette House, ca. 1810, is the oldest home in Tazewell and one of only a few buildings surviving a fire in 1862. It was built for William Graham, a merchant and one of Tazewell's founders. James Kivette acquired the home from William Yoakam. Kivette was a lawyer and coal mine operator whose daughter, novelist Louise K. Redman, had several books published. The Kivette House, built of cut limestone, is a rare example of Federal style architecture in upper East Tennessee. The building is open to the elements and at risk of vandalism and deterioration.
- 4) **Rippavilla Plantation Slave House, Spring Hill, Maury County.**  
This is a rare African American slave cabin remaining in Tennessee. Its location on the Civil War era Rippavilla Plantation is endangered by proposals by General Motors allowing roads across the site opening the area to unlimited utility easements thereby endangering this structure and associated early African American archaeological sites.
- 5) **Dickson County Courthouse Charlotte, Dickson County.** The 1833 Dickson County Courthouse is the centerpiece of the Charlotte Courthouse Square Historic District and still the center of Charlotte. The structure is largely intact and untouched by modern activities revealing a picturesque townscape. This 1833 structure needs basic maintenance and is currently being considered for rehabilitation including HVAC, electrical, roofing, fenestration remediation and ADA compliance issues.
- 6) **Niota Depot, Niota, McMinn County.** Originally known as the Mouse Creek Depot, the Niota Depot was constructed in 1854. This intact rectangular, brick building features a hipped roof and suffers from roof drainage problems damaging the outer layer of brick. Timely lime mortar re-pointing is required to avoid deterioration of the building.
- 7) **Kingston Springs Hotel Complex, Kingston Springs, Cheatham County.** The Kingston Springs Hotel is one of a few remaining hotel complexes established in Middle TN from the 1890s until 1917. Attracting prominent Tennesseans, visitors came to the mineral springs, dance hall and bowling alley. Two framed guest cottages are located near the hotel. The Victorian styled hotel was designed by Nashville architect Baxter J. Hodge. This collection of buildings is threatened by demolition by neglect.
- 8) **Columbia Train Depot, Columbia, Maury County.** The old Union Station in Columbia was built in 1905. It served the community until the 1960s when service was discontinued. This neglected building was recently threatened by plans that would have relocated the structure to St. Louis. Columbia's tradition of historic preservation should encourage its rehabilitation.
- 9) **Knoxville College, Knoxville, Knox County.** The Knoxville College Historic District has contributed to the welfare of the African American community of Tennessee since 1890, particularly in the fields of industrial and normal education. Over the years, various difficulties have resulted in some historic buildings becoming vacant and abandoned. The buildings now utilized need maintenance and are in danger of deterioration or vandalism.
- 10) **Temple Avenue Neighborhood, Knoxville, Knox County.** The buildings represent Knoxville's architectural development over the past century. The University of Tennessee announced plans to demolish the last remnants of the neighborhood once stretching down Volunteer Blvd. and punctuated by Circle Park. The remaining buildings would have little impact on UT's expansion plans. It is a foregone conclusion they are to be demolished. They were ignored in the inventory and assessment of historic structures on the UT campus funded by a grant from the Getty Trust.

— For more information, please visit [www.tennesseepreservationtrust.org](http://www.tennesseepreservationtrust.org) —

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