



# THE COURIER



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TENNESSEE HISTORICAL COMMISSION, NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

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## THC AWARDS 31 PRESERVATION GRANTS

In July, the Tennessee Historical Commission announced thirty-one matching grants from the Federal Historic Preservation Fund to community and civic organizations for projects that support the preservation of historic and archaeological resources. Awarded annually, 60% of the project funds are from the Federal Historic Preservation Fund and 40% of project funds come from the grantee. "These grants contribute to the study and protection of a wide range of Tennessee's treasured historic places--buildings, archaeological sites and communities. These places help make our state unique and contribute to our quality of life," said Patrick McIntyre, State Historic Preservation Officer and Executive Director of the Tennessee historical Commission.

The grants are competitive, and this year the Commission staff reviewed 55 applications

with funding requests totaling approximately \$1.2 million-- nearly double the amount of funding available. This year's selection included building and archaeological surveys, design guidelines for historic districts, rehabilitation of historic buildings, posters highlighting the state's archaeology and training for historic zoning staff or commissioners. 10% of the Federal preservation funds are mandated to go to Certified Local Governments, a program that allows communities to participate closely in the Federal program of historic preservation. Seven Certified Local Government communities were awarded grants this year. Additional priorities for grants include projects that meet the goals and objectives of the Tennessee Historical Commission's plan for historic preservation. Properties that are awarded restoration grants must be listed in the National Register.

The grant recipients and/or sites of the projects include:

**Bradley County: City of Cleveland** - \$19,191 to restore plaster and wood in the historic Craigmiles House, the city library.

**Carter County: East Tennessee State University** - \$10,000 to fund a geophysical survey at the Carter Mansion.

**Davidson County: Traveller's Rest** - \$5,320 to update the National Register nomination to include archaeology.

**Hardeman County: City of Bolivar and Hardeman County** - \$28,020 to fund the restoration of the historic Hardeman County Courthouse.

*Awards, continued on page 2*

## NEW COMMISSION MEMBER APPOINTED

Linda Moss Mines was appointed to the Tennessee Historical Commission on April 25, 2016. Ms. Mines is the Chattanooga and Hamilton County official historian, a lifetime appointment by both the Chattanooga City Commission and the Hamilton County Commission. As the historian, she co-chairs the County and City's 50th Anniversary Commemoration of the War in Vietnam and Mayor's Council on Women's History.

Ms. Mines is the full-time chairman of the History Department at Girls Preparatory School, where she teaches senior level AP classes and Constitutional Law and coordinates the 'Partnerships in the Community' program, connecting GPS students with non-profits and governmental agencies in service and

internships. Ms Mines is the State Historian for the Tennessee Society Daughters of the American Revolution and an active officer/member of the Chief John Ross Chapter in Chattanooga.

In addition, Mines serves on the Board of Trustees for the Erlanger Medical Center, the Education Committees for the Charles H. Coolidge Medal of Honor Heritage Center and the Chattanooga-Chickamauga National Battlefield and Park, the Chattanooga History Center, and as Past President and a Board Member for Habitat for Humanity of Greater Chattanooga.

Ms. Mines was a 2015 Humanities Tennessee Outstanding Scholar and was recently

recognized as a Constitutional Scholar by the University of Tennessee Center for Reflective Citizenship.



She readily admits that she loves archives, cemeteries, battlefields, and the basements of courthouses. She is most proud that she recently obtained her artillery certification from the National Park Service and can now fire the big guns.

Linda Mines and her husband, Tony, are the parents of two children and four grandchildren.

The October 21, 2016 meeting of the Tennessee Historical Commission will be held at Brookside Resort Event Center, located at 463 East Parkway in Gatlinburg at 9:00 a.m. on Friday, October 21, 2016.

**Awards, continued from page 1**

**Henry County: City of Paris** - \$21,000 to fund the restoration of the historic Paris Henry County Heritage Center.

**Jefferson County: Town of Dandridge** - \$6,300 to fund the restoration of the Hickman Tavern, city hall.

**Knox County: Historic Ramsey House** - \$20,000 to fund the restoration of the historic Ramsey House in Knoxville.

**Maury County: City of Columbia** - \$30,000 to fund the restoration of the historic Jack and Jill building, used by the city police department.

**McMinn County: First United Presbyterian Church of Athens** - \$36,000 to fund the restoration of the historic First United Presbyterian Church.

**Montgomery County: City of Clarksville** - \$24,600 to fund the restoration of the historic Smith-Trahern Mansion.

**Obion County: Obion County** - \$9,078 to fund the restoration of the historic Obion County Courthouse

**Westover Center for the Arts** - \$15,507 for the restoration of the historic Westover Center building in Union City.

**Overton County: American Legion Post 4** - \$27,000 to fund the restoration of the historic American legion Building in Livingston.

**Shelby County: Victorian Village, Inc.** - \$12,590 for design guidelines for the Victorian Village Historic District.

**Sumner County: City of Portland** - \$15,000 to fund the restoration of the historic Moye-Green Boarding house.

**Washington County: City of Johnson City** - funds to conduct a Commission Assistance and Mentoring Program.

**Williamson County: City of Franklin** - \$6,000 to update the Franklin Historic District and \$8,460 to restore grave markers in the historic Franklin City Cemetery.

**Unicoi County: Tennessee Division of Archaeology** - \$9,000 to fund a continuation of a survey of the Flint Creek Battle site.

**Multi-County Grants:**  
**Tennessee Preservation Trust** - \$12,000 to fund the Statewide Historic Preservation Conference.

**Middle Tennessee State University, Department of Sociology and Anthropology** - funds for posters for Tennessee Archaeology Week.

**Middle Tennessee State University, Fullerton Laboratory for Spatial Technology** - \$48,785 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** - \$50,000 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>

## HISTORICAL MARKERS

At its meeting on June 24, 2016 the Tennessee Historical Commission approved five new historical markers and one revised marker: Elbert Columbus "EC" Miller, Carter County; East Fork Stone's River, Cannon County; Byington, Knox County; Mt. Pisgah C. M. E. Church and Dr. King's Last Flight, Shelby County. The commission also approved a replacement text for the Old Stone Fort marker in Coffee County. Those interested in submitting proposed texts for markers should contact Linda T. Wynn at the Tennessee Historical Commission, 2941 Lebanon Pike, Nashville, Tennessee 37214, or call (615) 770.1093



# THC WELCOMES NEW STAFF MEMBERS

David Calease joined the THC staff in May as the Section 106 Review & Compliance Coordinator taking over for long time veteran coordinator Dr. Joseph Garrison. Calease comes to the Tennessee Historical Commission from the National Park Service where he spent six years at Stones River National Battlefield in Murfreesboro. During his time with the NPS, he participated in the Preservation and Skills Training program, travelling to different NPS sites across the country to perform preservation work in addition to the preservation projects he managed at Stones River. He earned his Masters of Arts in Public History from Middle Tennessee State University in 2012 and his Bachelor of Arts in History from Central College in Pella, Iowa, in 2005. In between his undergraduate and graduate work, Calease served with the 3rd Infantry Division from 2006 to 2009, including a 15-month deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. When not at work, he enjoys spending time with his family, reading, running, being



David Calease

outdoors, and participating in church activities. Calease and his wife, Jennifer have two sons; Reed, 2, and Deacon, born in July.

Jessica Jain joined the THC staff on June 16, 2016 as the Administrative Secretary. A native of Baton Rouge, Jain spent her childhood summers in Nashville and always considered it a second home. Jain is a graduate from Louisiana State University and earned an M.A. in Folklore from Indiana University, Bloomington with a concentration in Public Practice. Fluent in Hindi-Urdu, she spent two years in India researching henna artistry and traditions. After interning at the Tennessee State Museum, she worked with the Association of Science-Technology Centers in Washington, D.C for three years. As a student of material culture and enthusiast for local history, Jain is picking up where former staffer Steve Rogers left off to locate additional documentation of Clover Bottom Mansion's history.



Jessica Jain

## HISTORICAL COMMISSION HELPS BATTLEFIELD RESTORATION EFFORTS IN FRANKLIN

On June 9, 2016, bulldozers began tearing down the former Franklin High School gymnasium, located next to the Carter House State Historic Site in Franklin. As part of the ceremony marking the demolition, THC Executive Director Patrick McIntyre and Battle of Franklin Trust CEO Eric Jacobson gave remarks to the crowd, which included Mayor Ken Moore and Rep. Charles Sargent, and other elected officials and members of the public. McIntyre noted "I think our descendants shall judge us in a very positive way by what our generation has reclaimed. The gym and the other properties that have been removed over the past decade have restored the dignity of this sacred soil." The project was made possible through a \$500,000 capital project request submitted by the Tennessee Historical Commission and approved by Governor Haslam and the Tennessee General Assembly in 2015.

The demolition of the gymnasium was the original goal for the property when the tract

was acquired by the State in a land swap with Williamson County in 1998. For several years there had been a plan to adaptively reuse the former gym as a visitor center and museum for the Carter House. Unveiled just prior to



the "Great Recession," that plan required several million dollars in funds that never materialized. In October, 2015, a new state-funded Master Plan for the Carter House State Historic Site was unveiled. This plan, represents a collaborative effort between the THC and the Battle of Franklin Trust, which has managed the Carter House State

Historic Site for the State since 2009. The new plan recommended the demolition of the old gym. It also calls for walking trails, signage, and the construction of a new visitor center in a location on the property that has minimal impact on the historic site. The current 1980s visitor center, which under the plan will be removed, is actually constructed in the immediate vicinity of some of the Federal earthworks. By early September the site clearing with selective brush thinning had been completed, and the vista toward downtown from Carter's Hill was once again visible. The State of Tennessee saved the Carter House from being demolished for a gas station when it purchased the home in 1951. That commitment continues, as the former gym grounds next door are once again part of the Carter House property for the first time in decades. An important portion of the Battle of Franklin site has been restored—with the promise of more great things to come.



# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES NEWS

By Caroline Eller

## Four Tennessee Additions to the National Register of Historic Places

### Jefferson Street Historic District

Located about sixty miles east of Memphis in Haywood County on the east side of Brownsville's downtown commercial area, the Jefferson Street Historic District is a collection of eighteen properties that emerged historically as the center of the community's African-American business district. Most buildings in the district are one- and two-part commercial block buildings with modest detailing, the earliest edifice constructed at 14 East Jefferson Street circa 1900. One property, formerly occupied by a frame dwelling that was razed in 1948, is now the site of the city-maintained C.P. Boyd Park with wood gazebo and park benches. The lot which now contains this community park was donated by Dr. C.P. Boyd, founder of the Haywood County Civic and Welfare League.



*Streetscape, 100 block E. Jefferson Street, view to northwest.*

The district retains local significance for its historical associations in the areas of Ethnic Heritage and Commerce during a period of significance from about 1910 to 1970. Throughout this time, businesses in the district included restaurants, pool halls, meeting spaces, barber shops, salons and grocery stores which catered to the African-American community in Brownsville. Many of the businesses remain in African-American ownership, and while several buildings have experienced some alteration over the years, the district continues to maintain the historical integrity and architecture of the community that built it.

*The National Register nomination for the Jefferson Street Historic District was prepared by Rebecca Hightower and Phil Thomason with Thomason and Associates.*

### Kenner Manor Historic District

Kenner Manor Historic District is located about 4.6 miles southwest of central Nashville, Davidson County. The residential district is comprised of early- to mid-twentieth century resources and retains local significance in the areas of Community Planning and Development and Architecture during a period of 1914-1966. The heart of the district, along Kenner Avenue, was platted in 1914, when the Kenner Manor Land Company was formed. Later portions in the Clearview subdivision (east side of the district) were subsequently added in 1929.



*Streetscape of Clearview Drive (west side) view to southwest.*

There are a total of 187 resources within the district, including 159 residential buildings, 27 outbuildings and one designed landscape, Clearview Park. Over seventy-eight percent of the

resources within the property are contributing to the integrity of the district. Residences within the district display a wide variety of architectural styles, including Tudor Revival (20%), Colonial Revival (23%), Craftsman (6%), and English Cottage Revival (11%). Bungalow, Minimal Traditional and Ranch house forms are present within the district, though the majority of resources (60%) are not built in any specific type.

Overall, lot sizes in the Kenner Manor Historic District are about one-quarter acre along the Kenner Avenue portion of the district, and many areas display significant setbacks from the street (around 50 to 60 feet). Mature plants and trees, along with the lack of sidewalks, are attributed to the parklike feeling of the neighborhood. Eastern portions of the district, along Clearview Drive and Crescent Road, maintain a more curvilinear layout featuring larger lots and the small, landscaped Clearview Park. Kenner Manor Historic District embodies the characteristics of an early-twentieth century Nashville development that was established during a time of transition from streetcar suburbs with grid patterns to early automobile suburbs featuring curvilinear streets and large lots.



*View of Tudor Revival house located at 163 Kenner Ave., view to southwest*

*The National Register nomination for the Kenner Manor Historic District was prepared by Lindsay Crockett and Jaime Destefano with History, Inc.*

### Jackson Park Historic District

Jackson Park Historic District, located in East Nashville, Davidson County, is comprised of three historic residential portions named Jackson Park, Riverwood Subdivision, and Eastdale Place, which developed during the early- to mid-twentieth century. This district has been nominated for local significance in the areas of Architecture and Community Planning and Development during a period of significance from 1923-1966.

Each area within the district was successively surveyed and plotted: Eastdale Place in 1923, Riverwood Subdivision in 1924 (later subdivided in 1929), and Jackson Park in 1930. Occupying approximately 255 acres of land, the district retains a high level of integrity as an automobile suburb, with such defining characteristics as a "warped grid pattern" layout, extended front driveways, and a striking absence of sidewalks. Landscaping features include stone elements such as drainage channels and retaining walls.



*Streetscape of Brush Hill Road (east side), view to southeast.*

**National Register, continued on page 5**



**National Register, continued from page 4**

Most residential buildings exhibit Colonial Revival-style architecture, but English Cottage Revival and Tudor Revival examples are also prevalent throughout. At the western edge of the district, the unusual Egyptian Revival-style Jere Baxter Masonic Lodge features decorative terra cotta panels, prominent brick buttresses, and stylized motifs.

*The National Register nomination for the Jackson Park Historic District was prepared by Lindsay Crockett and Jaime Destefano with History, Inc.*



*West façade of Egyptian Revival-style Jere Baxter Masonic Lodge, view to east.*

**Dr. Thomas H. Price House**

Nominated to the National Register of Historic Places for local significance under Criterion B (association with persons significant in our past), the Dr. Thomas H. Price House in Covington, Tipton County was constructed in 1912 on present-day North Main Street. The house is located on the edge of a commercial and residential zone and is approximately four-tenths of a mile from the Covington Main Square area. Craftsman-style architecture, typical of early-twentieth century Bungalow forms, was applied to the contributing primary building on the property. North of the house is a circa-1976 concrete block retaining wall that runs along the north property line and may have been added to provide separation from an adjoining commercial development.



*Dr. Thomas H. Price House, west façade, view to east.*

The Price House is significant in the National Register Areas of Significance under Ethnic Heritage (Black) and Medicine. Dr. Price was a locally-prominent African-American physician who purchased the home in 1923, residing in it until his death in 1962. He was actively involved in the social and civic aspects of the community in Covington, practicing medicine and, against many odds, rising to prominence in the medical field.

Dr. Price was an important figure in the African-American community in Covington between 1923 and 1962, as he became a highly-esteemed medical professional who established a thriving medical practice in spite of limited educational opportunities. The son of former slaves, Dr. Price excelled academically, attending Rust College in north Mississippi and earning his Bachelor of Science degree from Lane College (listed in the National Register in 1987) in Jackson, Tennessee.

The Price House sits on a property less than one acre in size in an area that was once a quite diverse middle-class neighborhood, later affected by the construction of Highway 51. Although there have been some modifications over time including a later addition with bathroom and sunroom, the Price House retains a wood clapboard exterior, brick foundation, exposed wood rafters and brackets, a full front porch and one-over-one double-hung wood windows with a decorative Craftsman-style upper sash. Interior historic details include decorative corner base wood trim, beaded wood wainscoting, plaster walls, Corinthian style wood columns, triple wood door openings and wood panel doors with artistic patterns.



*Dr. Thomas H. Price House, central front hall and staircase, view to west.*

*The National Register nomination for the Dr. Thomas H. Price House was prepared by Maggie Johnson, former Historic Preservation Planner with the Memphis Area Association of Governments and David Gwinn, the Covington City Historian.*



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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, 08/16.*



## REMEMBERING OLD SCHOOL DAYS: THE GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY OF THE PEARL SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 1966

By Linda T. Wynn, Assistant Director for State Programs

Between June 24 and June 26, 2016, the Pearl Senior High School class of 1966 celebrated its Golden Anniversary since being graduating from their “dear old school”. Realizing that their matriculation at Pearl intersected the Modern Civil Rights Movement, through the years they garnered a greater appreciation for the days they spent on Pearl’s hallowed grounds. On the first day of its celebration, class members returned to the archives, housed at what is now Martin Luther King Jr. Academic Magnet for Health Sciences and Engineering at Pearl High School. Like a magnet, the archives drew the former students to the numerous artifacts and memorabilia that dates back to the school’s first graduating class of 1898. Being the class that made basketball history, their attention quickly turned to a scorebook that includes a page from January 4, 1965, when Pearl’s basketball team lost on a last-second shot by Nashville’s Father Ryan’s Lynn Dempsey. They gazed with pride at the four-foot-tall state basketball championship trophy from 1966 that denoted the season when the Pearl High Tigers went undefeated and won the South’s first integrated high school tournament. Next to the trophy was a plaque that commemorated the National Negro High School Basketball Tournament played in Nashville from 1945 to 1964. Their pride overflowed when they noted that Pearl won that tournament won four times. Not only did they remember the basketball prowess, they also remembered the choral performances, the marching band, and the academic achievements, which also was a source of pride. They recalled the competence that their former instructors instilled in them to be the very best. After all, many of the school’s instructors were graduates with advanced degrees from some of the “black ivy league” institutions of higher education. Like their former teachers, many members of the class of 1966 not only were graduated with baccalaureate degrees but also earned advance and terminal degrees. The Pearl archive, a treasure trove of memories, intersects the era of Jim Crow and the rising tide of the Modern Civil Rights Movement.

Although Pearl High had its genesis one year after the 1896 U. S. Supreme Court case of *Plessy v. Ferguson* sanctioned Jim Crow, according to Melvin Black, a former student and later an assistant basketball coach, “Jim Crow and a segregated school system didn’t crush a community, but instead inspired a purposeful resistance, and greatest in both academics and athletics.”<sup>1</sup>

At the time they entered Pearl, many in the class of 1966 knew that they were attending the high school of their parents and grandparents; however, it was not until later that they realized the significance of the secondary educational institution and those on whose shoulders they stood. Pearl School began in 1883 as a grammar school for African Americans on what is now Fifth Avenue South. It remained in the area known as “Black Bottom” until 1917 when the school outgrew its building due to an ever-expanding student population. In 1883, this area provided the location for one of Nashville’s first brick schoolhouses, the

Pearl School, which was named for Joshua F. Pearl, a Civil War Union soldier and Nashville’s first superintendent of schools.

Despite unequal treatment from the world outside, Pearl High’s faculty created a family atmosphere, shared by alumni even to this day. Closely connected to Civil Rights activities at neighboring Fisk University and Tennessee A& I State College (now TSU), Pearl High students and teachers were part of the force that affected change in Nashville’s segregated society. Pearl as a high school has its beginnings in Meigs, Nashville’s first African American high school. During the 1897-98 academic year, the high-school department at Meigs was transferred to Pearl. On June 2, 1898, Pearl’s first high-school class was graduated. Because of overcrowded conditions, in 1917, Pearl moved to a new three-story structure at Sixteenth Avenue, North, and Grant Street. The Board hired additional teachers, expanded the course of study, and added the twelfth grade. The old Pearl building was renamed Cameron Junior High School, in honor of former teacher H. H. Cameron, who died during World War One.

By 1936, because of crowded conditions, it was necessary to construct a new building. Located on Seventeenth Avenue, North, and Jo Johnston, the architectural firm of McKissack & McKissack designed the new structure. In the fall of 1937, students moved into what “eminent authorities considered one of the most modern, best constructed, and well-equipped buildings for Negroes in the South.” The city later added other facilities: vocational wing (1945), stadium (1948), gymnasium, cafeteria, and four classrooms (1964). Pearl students won many awards and athletic championships, including the 1966 TSSAA State Basketball Championship.

Pearl Senior High School was no stranger to basketball championships. Although the team was not allowed to participate in games with white schools from across the state, its athletic and cerebral prowess had earned the school national recognition, as it dominated many of the state’s black championships between 1939 and 1964. Living in their world within a world, after winning state tournaments, Pearl participated in the National High School Tournaments, established in 1929 by Charles H. Williams and sponsored by the historically black Hampton Normal and Agricultural Institute (now Hampton University), in Virginia. Replaced by National Interscholastic Athletic Association (NIAA), the championship games moved to other locations before ceasing due to the Second World War. After being dormant for three years, the tournaments were revived by Henry Arthur Kean, athletic director and Dr. Walter S. Davis, president of Tennessee A & I State College (now Tennessee State University) in 1945, remaining in Nashville until 1964.

In 1958, Coached by William J. Gupton and led by forward Ronnie “Scat” Lawson, Pearl captured the first of three consecutive national

**School, continued on page 7**

<sup>1</sup> Andrew Maraniss’ *Legacy of Pearl High School and its Success During Segregation*. <http://theundefeated.com/features/the-legacy-of-pearl-high-school-and-its-success-during-segregation/> Accessed, September 15, 2016.



### School, continued from page 6

championships. That year the Pearl championship team posted a perfect season. The following two years, Pearl won the national championships. Between 1961 and 1962, Pearl's winning streak ended as Clarksville Burt High School and Booker T. Washington of Memphis won the championship in the respective years. Pearl recaptured the championship in 1963.

Pearl's boys' basketball teams not only excelled in the sport but its girls' basketball teams also outclassed their opponents. Under Sadie Galloway Johnson, who became the girls' basketball coach in 1939, the teams dominated the basketball court in Middle Tennessee. Winning eight District titles and three state titles, Johnson, who retired from coaching in 1953, amassed a record of 160 wins, six losses and two ties, and seven undefeated seasons.

The winds of vicissitude that swirled as race relations were embarking upon the eradication of the ubiquitous Jim Crow system and the possibility of litigation hastened the TSSAA's decision to desegregate. Executive Secretary A. Foster Bridges knew that the Tennessee Education Association (white) and the Teacher Education Congress (African American) were considering a merger. He was also aware that schools in East Tennessee were desegregating. On June 14, 1964, the TSSAA voted to accept Black American schools that belonged to the THSAA and the Middle Tennessee Athletic Association as affiliate members. Of course, there was opposition to the merger from both races. Notwithstanding, with that vote, Tennessee became the first and only southern state to desegregate its athletic associations without court intervention. Even so, the coaching staff and members of the Pearl High School varsity basketball team carried on business as usual and added games and championships in the win column.

The Pearl High Tigers continued to dominate the basketball court in the THSAA, winning the final two championship titles in 1963 and 1964. The following year, as an affiliate member of the TSSAA, they won the Affiliate championship,

all of which were under the leadership of Coach Cornelius Ridley. Little did the coaches or team members know that destiny would continue to write them into Civil Rights and Tennessee history.

On Jan. 4, 1965, the Pearl High School basketball team played Father Ryan High School at Nashville's Municipal Auditorium. The first game in the South between a predominately-white school and an African American school drew the largest crowd ever for a regular season event. According to an article that appeared in the Nashville *Tennessean*, approximately 8,300 people attended the game.<sup>2</sup> Both communities were excited about the game that in many ways was greeted by much anticipation. Pearl's team consisted of players including James Bowens, John Petway, Ronald Parham, Jesse Rucker, Ronald Thompson, Richard Wade, and Bennett Webb, among others.

The game lived up to everyone's expectations. The teams traded the lead throughout game. Eventually, Pearl took a 51-50 lead and the game came down to a final shot for Father Ryan. Willie Brown, an African American, the leading scorer in the game with 21 points and Ryan's star, took a shot from the corner that bounced off the rim and into the hands of his teammate, Lynn Dempsey. He made a high shot over a charging Wallace that dropped through the net as the horn sounded giving Ryan a 52-51 victory. Pearl's team and fans were shocked at the loss. Nevertheless, juniors on Pearl's team would go on the following year to win the TSSAA State Championship.

In 1966, the varsity basketball team excelled in competition. Coaches Ridley, Melvin Black, and James Armstrong and their Pearl High Tigers posted a perfect record (21-0) for the regular season. The ten-man squad (Perry Wallace, center; Walter Fisher, forward; James Douglas, forward; Theodore McClain, guard; Joe Herbert, guard; Melvin Smith, guard; Ervin Williams, center; Charles "Tony" Moorman, forward; Tyrone Fizer, forward-center; and Willie Fisher, guard) was a group of well-disciplined athletes and all were capable of dunking the ball. Through the district, regional, and state competition,

the Pearl squad warmed up to the song, *Sweet Georgia Brown*, and as they went through their pre-game routine, they demonstrated their main weapon, the demoralizing slam-dunk, which awed the crowd, as well as their competitors. The top-ranked players in the Associated Press for the regular season, systematically, they went through each level of competition and conquered their opponents.

On March 19, 1966, in Vanderbilt's Memorial Gymnasium, the Tigers conquered the TSSAA world, and inscribed their story on the pages of Tennessee history by defeating Memphis Treadwell for the Boys' State Championship, thus becoming the first Black American team in the state to win that title. While the team was known for its athleticism, the players were academically inclined as well, especially since Pearl had a nationally recognized reputation as a secondary educational institution, *par excellence*. Just as members Ronald Lawson (UCLA), Walter "Vic" Rouse and Leslie Hunter (Loyola University) of the winning teams during era of segregation were heavily recruited by the nation's colleges and universities, so were the members of Pearl's 1966 basketball team, especially Perry Wallace.

Although Wallace was the most highly sought after player, each of the Pearl Tigers was a gem in his own right. The team's starting lineup, as well as the reserves all played collegiate level basketball.

Pearl's memorabilia and artifacts are maintained in the Pearl Archives housed at what is now Martin Luther King, Jr Magnet School at Pearl High. The Golden Anniversary of the 1966 Pearl High School Class provided attendees an opportunity to meet, greet, and renew old friendships. It also offered them a chance to remember and converse about Principal John C. Hull, as well as the faculty and staff who inculcated them with tools needed to "move forward, ever higher". It also helped them to put their high school experiences into a historical context and to appreciate the contributions they made during the 1960s.

<sup>2</sup> David Plazas, "This was the first game in the South between an integrated school and an African American school" *The Tennessean*, January 4, 2015. <http://www.tennessean.com/story/opinion/editorials/2015/01/02/father-ryan-pearl-game-time-pride-reflection/21212307/> Accessed, September 15, 2016.



# PUBLICATIONS TO NOTE

By Linda T. Wynn

Assistant Director for State Programs & Publications Editor

**Publications of Rutgers University Press, 106 Somerset Street, 3rd Floor, New Brunswick, New Jersey 08901 include:**

Gabriel A. Briggs' *The New Negro in the Old South* re-examines the standard narrative of early twentieth-century African American history that acknowledges the Great Migration of southern African Americans to northern metropolises for the emergence of the New Negro, an educated, upwardly mobile sophisticate very different from his or her forbearers. Briggs, a senior lecturer in the English department at Vanderbilt University argues that the "New Negro" appeared prior to the Great Migration of the interwar period. African American discourse has included the idiom "New Negro" since the last decade of the 19th century. However, it was Alain Locke, a Harvard-trained and Howard University philosophy professor, who contrasted the "Old Negro" with the "New Negro" and popularized the idiom during the period known as the Negro or Harlem Renaissance. Characterizing African Americans of the period, the expression "New Negro" implied a more outspoken advocacy of respectfulness and a renunciation of the notion that they quietly acquiesced to *de facto* and *de jure* practices and laws of Jim Crow racial segregation. *The New Negro in the Old South* makes the point that the "New Negro" materialized long before the Great Migration by looking at the African American community in Nashville, Tennessee, following the Civil War. Drawing from archival research, Briggs demonstrates how Nashville's African American community played a part in fashioning the economic, intellectual, social, and political lives of African Americans in the following decades by examining four case studies, two individuals and two protest movements. He challenges the conventional narrative by asserting that post-Reconstruction Nashville, rather than New York or Chicago was the formative site of the New Negro. This work should appeal to those who have an interdisciplinary interest in that period of American history between the end

of the Civil War and the Harlem Renaissance. **Paper, \$27.95.**

**Publications of the University of the University of Alabama Press, 200 Hackberry Lane, 2nd Floor, Tuscaloosa, Alabama 35487 include:**

*Laying Claim: African American Cultural Memory and Southern Identity* by Patricia G. Davis studies the practices and cultural institutions that describe and support African American "southernness," revealing that southern identity is more extensive than conventional narratives that focus on the culture of those of European descent. Davis, an assistant professor of communication at Georgia State University, advances perceptive and probing investigations of the African American participation in Civil War reenactments. By doing so, the role of African American in the museums enriches the depictions of the Civil War years with sundry interpretations that offer alternatives to the unchallenged and prevailing public memories. From this emerging cultural landscape, Davis reveals how one-dimensional portraits of African American experiences are giving way to a more realistic, expansive, and wide-ranging interpretation of the southern narrative. As Craig A. Warren, author of the *Rebel Yell: A Cultural History*, this tome is "a provocative and timely work that contributes something new to our understanding of both Civil War memory and the evolution of African American identity." **Cloth, \$34.95.**

**Publications of the University of North Carolina Press, 116 S Boundary St, Chapel Hill, North Carolina 27514 include:**

*Reconstruction's Ragged Edge: The Politics of Postwar Life in the Southern Mountains* by Steven E. Nash centers on a region that is inadequately represented in the critical examination of Reconstruction's historical literature. Nash, an assistant professor of history at East Tennessee State University, elucidates the diversity and complexity of Appalachian political and economic

machination and brings to light the wide-ranging and complicated issues posed to the South as well as the entire nation. The author narrates the history of Reconstruction as it unfolded in the mountains of Western North Carolina that during the war was predominantly pro-Confederate. However, Nash presents a complicated narrative of the region tackling the war's aftermath, probing the persistent wartime constancies that informed embittered power struggles between factions of white mountaineers determined to rule. For a short time period, an influx of federal governmental power empowered white anti-Confederates to join with former enslaved persons to lift the Republican Party to power on both the state and local levels. As Nash states when the U.S. military and the Freedmen's Bureau left North Carolina, "The wartime elite went to just about any extent, including Klan violence, to get that power back." As Dr. Aaron Astor, an Associate Professor of History at Maryville College states, "In this compelling book, Steven E. Nash explores the rich complexity of western North Carolina's Reconstruction politics, offering new insights and evidence while challenging and correcting previous historical misconceptions about the unfolding of Reconstruction in the Mountain South." **Cloth, \$39.95.**

**Publications of The University of Tennessee, 110 Conference Center, 600 Henley Street, Knoxville, Tennessee 37996 include:**

Richard H. Nollan's *Blood Picture: L. W. Diggs, Sickle Cell Anemia, and the South's First Blood Bank* is principally an account of Diggs, which narrates the life of an intellectual and physician with grounded principles. A medical educator, hematologist, clinical investigator, and blood banker, Dr. Diggs's career spanned the Great Depression, World War II, and the civil rights movement. He pushed the limits of medicine and sickle cell research in times of turbulent social change. The medical career of Dr. Lemuel Whitley Diggs began in Memphis, Tennessee, in 1929 when he joined the faculty of the University

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of Tennessee as Assistant Professor of Pathology. His main duties consisted of supervising the clinical laboratories, including the transfusion service, and teaching the courses in clinical pathology and general pathology to medical students. Other duties involved performance of autopsies, assistance in the examination of surgical specimens, and in the training of medical technologists. As part of his position, Diggs saw patients at the Memphis City Hospital, a poor, inner-city facility constricted by Jim Crow laws and explicit racial partiality. He immediately recognized a high rate of sickle cell disease among his patients. Study of these cases launched him into a lifelong investigation of the pathological anatomy and the clinical and laboratory manifestations of the sickle cell trait and sickle cell disease variants. Diggs's study of sickle cell disease led him to challenge medical racism, establish the South's first blood bank and the nation's first sickle cell center. He also assisted in outlining the mission of St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. In April of 1938 Dr. Diggs opened the first blood bank in the South and only the fourth in America. Nollan, an association professor and head of Research and Learning Services at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center in Memphis, has brought Dr. L. W. Diggs, a trailblazer in sickle disease research to the forefront. Nollan's work is

an excellent companion to Keith Wailoo's groundbreaking book *Dying in the City of the Blues: Sickle Cell Anemia and the Politics of Race and Health*. **Cloth, \$45.00.**

**Publications of W. W. Norton & Company, 500 Fifth Avenue, New York, New York 10110 include:**

Preston Lauterbach's, *Beale Street Dynasty: Sex, Song, and the Struggle for the Soul of Memphis* inserts an interesting chapter to civil rights history. Lauterbach, the author of *The Chitlin' Circuit: And the Road to Rock 'n' Roll*, named the best book of the year in 2011 by the *Wall Street Journal*, *Boston Globe*, and *National Public Radio* is a former visiting scholar at Rhodes College and fellow at the Virginia Foundation for the Humanities, paints a portrait of Memphis history by way of Beale Street and those who traverse its thoroughfare. Personalities like the Robert R. Church, Sr., W. C. Handy, Ida B. Wells, and Richard Wright, to name a few. Robert R. Church, Sr. accumulated wealth and power during the most trying decades in the American South. Although his prosperity was based in vice, Church used his wealth to fund Well's newspaper, the *Memphis Free Speech*. He hosted Frederick Douglass and Booker T. Washington at his home on Lauderdale Street. He had constructed the largest theater in Memphis and he along with his son, Robert R. Church, Jr. commissioned W. C. Handy

to write his first blues compositions. As the former visiting scholar at Rhodes College explains, racist backlash also made the "Bluff City" an embattled space. In May 1866, City Recorder John C. Creighton issued "a bloodcurdling decree": "Kill the last damned one of the...race, and burn up the cradle..." Officers of the law and citizens turned their aggression on whoever was unlucky enough to be black and in their way (p.20), including Robert R. Church, Sr. As Lauterbach moves toward Prohibition, the reader will encounter Church and the founding of the Lincoln League, the most powerful African-American political organization of the early twentieth century. During the course of his research, the author examines numerous newspaper reports and court records to suggest the back-alley dramas and smoky-room dealings of Memphis political bosses. After the 1912 demise of his father, Church Jr. carried on his in his father's stead. However, unpunished lynching proliferated. As noted by Lauterbach, "the police force terrorized black Memphis." His retelling of the February 25, 1933 murder of nineteen-year-old Lavon Carlock by Memphis police, *Beale Street Dynasty* eerily mirrors "what's past is prologue". This award-winning tome gives readers an analysis of historic events that reveals the concurrent narratives of popular music, civil rights, and a community's allegiance to and pride in their conflict-ridden city. **Paper, \$16.95.**

## HISTORIC PRESERVATION GRANT APPLICATIONS

The next round of Historic Preservation Fund grant applications will begin November 1, 2016. Applications for the federally-funded matching grants will be available online or by contacting the office at that time. The exact amount of federal funds available for grants is as yet undetermined, but it is expected to be in the range of \$250,000. Completed applications must be in the Tennessee Historical Commission offices by January 31, 2017. Applications will be reviewed and grantees awarded later in 2017. Awarding grants may be as late as August 2017, depending on when Congress completes work on the Budget.

The selection process for successful grants will emphasize projects such as architectural and archaeological surveys, design guidelines for historic districts, and restoration of historic buildings listed in the National Register and have a public use. Priorities for grants will be based on the preservation plan *A Future for the Past: A Comprehensive Plan for Historic Preservation in Tennessee*. Priorities include areas experiencing rapid growth and development, threats to cultural resources, areas where there are gaps in knowledge regarding cultural resources, and communities that participate in the Certified Local Government program. Proposed survey projects should identify and record historic districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects

significant to Tennessee's history and built before 1967. 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 19th century or post World War II residential development. Preservation plans for towns, neighborhoods, and historic districts and the preparation of nominations to the National Register of Historic Places are other areas for possible grant funding. In addition to the restoration of buildings, predevelopment work necessary to undertake rehabilitation is an acceptable area for a grant. Restoration of historic buildings must follow the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties. The grants are matching grants and will reimburse up to 60% of the costs of approved project work. The remaining 40% must be provided by the grantee as matching funds. Contact the Tennessee Historical Commission, 2941 Lebanon Pike, Nashville, Tennessee 37214 or download an application from the web. 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 <http://www.tn.gov/environment/article/thc-federal-preservation-grants#>. Completed applications must be received by January 31, 2017.



# MY TIME WITH THE TENNESSEE WARS' COMMISSION

September 7, 2016 By Fred M. Prouty

Funding of the Wars' Commission has allowed the Commission to create preservation and interpretation plans for many of Tennessee's most significant and endangered Historic Military sites connected with the French and Indian War (1754-1763), Revolutionary War (1776-1783), War of 1812 (1812-1815), the American and Mexican War (1845-1848) and battlefields of the Civil War.

Preservation and Interpretation Plans are ongoing at the 800-acre state owned Davis Bridge Battlefield (Oct. 5, 1862) in Hardeman County and McNairy Counties, and Parker's Crossroads Battlefield (Dec. 31, 1862) in Henderson County. Parkers Crossroads Battlefield contains over 385 acres of preserved core battlefield property. It was purchased with the assistance of our preservation partners at the National Park Service, American Battlefield Preservation Program (LWCF 50/50 match), the national non-profit Civil War Trust of Washington, DC, the Tennessee Heritage Conservation Trust Fund, the State Lands Acquisition Fund, and funding from the Tennessee Wars' Commission. The battlefield at Parker's Crossroads (Tennessee's newest Civil War Battlefield Park) opened to the general public in 2006 is a prime example of government and private partnerships. Owned by the state, and contractually under "primary care-taking" by the City of Parkers Crossroads, the TWC and our many preservation partners have created a new Tennessee heritage tourism destination using a majority of matching federal funds to help acquire and create a new park that does not require state maintenance or staffing. This is a win-win situation for us all. We are currently completing another "primary caretaker" program with the City of Adams, TN (Robertson County) in preserving a 20-acre tract containing an important Civil War fortifications and historic 1850's railroad trestle site containing the remaining stone piers that once crossed the Scenic Red River.

During the last two years, over (17) Tennessee counties, from Shelby in the West, to Hamblin County, in the East have received Tennessee Wars' Commission Grants, helping to preserve and interpret Tennessee historic military sites. Tennessee's statewide Tourist Welcome Centers have been furnished with our newly updated brochure, A Path Divided, Tennessee's Civil War Heritage Trail, still the most requested tourist brochure at those facilities. We have re-released the popular and Emmy award winning DVD documentary video, Hallowed Ground, Preserving Tennessee's Battlefields for distribution to all of our schools in Tennessee. We have funded the creation of wayside interpretive trail signs and new documentary film for the recently opened Welcome Center at Johnsonville Civil War Historic Area State Park. Our long-term involvement with the preservation and interpretation of over 800 acres of state owned battlefield property at Davis Bridge (Oct. 5, 1862) in McNairy and Hardeman Counties continues. The Wars' Commission premiered our new, "Ready to Die for Liberty, Tennessee's USCT In The Civil War", at the 150th sesquicentennial event at Fort Pillow State Park (Lauderdale County) this April 12, 2014.

As a supporter of the Tennessee War of 1812 Bicentennial Commission (1812-1815), the Tennessee Wars' Commission created a preservation and interpretive plan for the significant War of 1812 Camp Blount site in Fayetteville, Tennessee (Lincoln County). Recently completed negotiations resulted in the acquisition of an endangered 40-acre tract linked with this historically significant site. It is one of only nine recorded 1812 sites in

Tennessee. The acquisition of the land honors the "Tennessee Volunteers" who encamped and trained there for service in the Creek War in 1813 and as a camp of instruction prior to the Battle of New Orleans in 1815. The site will contain trails and wayside signage and kiosk describing Tennessee's notable role in the War of 1812. Further development features a trail system tracing historic Native American culture in Tennessee.

Matching funds for this important 1812 acquisition (\$250,000) was secured from a recent Tennessee Historical Commission special appropriation.

After several years of negotiations and working with local and state government officials, the Tennessee Wars' Commission has acquired the historic 40-acre Camp Blount tract of the 1813 and 1814 encampment sites of General Andrew Jackson and his Tennessee volunteer militia during the War of 1812. The commission has also funded a grant for media and interpretation planning for the City of Fayetteville's new 1812 Memorial Park.

Due to an overwhelming response to Tennessee's War of 1812 Governor William Blount's request for Tennessee volunteer troops at the 1813 Fayetteville encampment, Tennessee would forever be known as "THE VOLUNTEER STATE". This important property saw the likes of General Andrew Jackson, David Crockett, Sam Houston, and many other prominent Tennesseans, many of whom did not survive those military actions. In the autumn of 2014, Tennessee's War of 1812 Commission sponsored a bicentennial event on those historic campgrounds with living history events and symposiums. Nearly 3,000 schoolchildren attended the weekend events celebrating the 200th anniversary of the encampment that validated the important role Tennessee volunteer troops played in the defeat of invading British forces at the battle of New Orleans, January 8, 1815.

With funding approved by the Senate and House Budget Hearing Committees, the Wars' Commission has completed many projects that have increased our state heritage tourism visitation, bringing millions of dollars into our State each year. Since the creation of the Wars' Commission (1995), we have helped preserve over 7,000 acres of endangered battlefields in Tennessee. The Tennessee Wars' Commission is deeply indebted to our preservation partners at the National Park Service's, American Battlefield Protection Program, who have contributed (since 1998), over \$4,000,000 dollars for several endangered Tennessee battlefields, allowing the Tennessee Wars' Commission to secure \$7,464,061, in non-federal leveraged matching funds, for a total land acquisition cost of \$10,350,636. A recent National Park Service publication, "Tennessee Visitation and Spending Survey", sites over 11 million visitors to Tennessee Battlefield Parks, who spent over 79 million tourist generated dollars. National Park Service Civil War Battlefield Parks at Shiloh, Fort Donelson, Chattanooga/Chickamauga and Stones River enjoy increased visitation as a result of the efforts of the Tennessee Wars' Commission.

This past year, the Tennessee Wars' Commission was tasked with the creation of a report and compact dfsk entitled, A Statewide Survey of Tennessee's War Memorials. The survey is intended to locate and identify all public war

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memorials in the state and inventory and understand how Tennessee's Vietnam War dead have been memorialized. The Tennessee Wars' Commission and Tennessee Historical Commission believe the war memorial survey will become the standard study on this issue for years to come.

Many of our endangered state historic military properties become available for sale without prior warning and are lost forever due to lack of immediate funding capabilities. To this end, we are most obliged to our Tennessee legislators whose preservation efforts have helped raise awareness and funding for these endangered sites. Members of this committee and other interested parties contributed time and determination to preserve our state's endangered historic military sites and are greatly appreciated.

I am pleased to report that through the efforts of the non-profit, Tennessee Civil War Preservation Association, the Tennessee Wars' Commission, and support from the Tennessee Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission, Tennessee now has a preservation license plate dedicated to "Saving Our State Civil War Battlefields". Many years of hard work were spent to achieve this long hoped for resource to provide additional battlefield preservation funding in our state – to date over 1,300 plates have been issued.

In November 2013, the Tennessee Wars' Commission and Tennessee Historical Commission unveiled its new Civil War Site Preservation Grant Program. The funding was made possible by passage of the Tennessee Civil War (or War Between the States) Sites Preservation Act of 2013. Grant applications for land acquisitions are reviewed and ranked by Tennessee Wars' Commission and Tennessee Historical Commission staff and approved by the Tennessee Historical Commission Board, on February 21st, 2014. Grant recipients must provide half of the cost as matching funds. The new program will fund \$500,000 for the acquisition of properties or conservation easements on land associated with the 38 most significant Civil War sites in Tennessee. The funds will also assist in the interpretation of "Underground Railroad" sites and help preserve other locations (such as contraband campsites) associated with the road to freedom for those who escaped enslavement.

One grant selected for funding was in the amount of \$382,000, for the non-profit Civil War Trust for acquisition of 48 plus acres associated with the Battle Chattanooga (November 24-25 1863) located on Missionary Ridge, in Hamilton County. A second grant of \$100,000 was approved for Conservation Easements for the Land Trust for Tennessee, on approximately 134 acres of the Dandridge Battlefield (January 17, 1864) in Jefferson County in East Tennessee. We received requests for over one million dollars for the Tennessee Civil War Sites Preservation Fund grants, confirming there has been great interest and need expressed for preservation of our hallowed ground. There is something principled, patriotic, and sacrificial expressed when we safeguard these historic resources. In short, it is the responsible thing to do.

Numerous state officials played a significant role in passage of the legislation and all are to be commended. The creation of the legislation enjoyed broad bipartisan support.; It is the latest example of Tennessee's continued standing commitment to help save our states historic battlefields and associated sites for future generations.

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to Senator Douglas Henry, whose support was indispensable in the formation of the Wars' Commission and its preservation efforts. Senator Henry was pivotal in the process of creating the Tennessee Wars' Commission. His continued guidance and willingness to vigorously support the cause of preservation and interpretation of our states hallowed battleground sites is gratefully acknowledged. What he has accomplished is a great benefit to our state and to the nation at large. Senator Henry, I salute you!

In closing, I would like to cite comments written in 1910 by Washington Gardner, a Civil War veteran of many Tennessee campaigns. While his remarks concern the Battle of Franklin, they apply to any of Tennessee's endangered Civil War sites.

To me that (battle) field is holy ground. When I visit it, I feel like taking the shoes from off my feet. And yet there is not a thing to mark it (for) the pilgrim that goes there, the son of his father who died there, there is nothing to be seen but a blank field. It ought to (at least) be accurately mapped and critical positions marked. One hundred years from now intelligent young men and women who visit there will ask where the field on which the battle was fought is. Our children's children for generations to come will go to these places where their ancestors fought, and many died, and they will be disappointed and grieved to find absolutely no recognition of the field where they struggled and died for one cause or the other.

If we are to "feel" the ground beneath our feet, where our ancestors tread, we must preserve them for future generations, leaving behind the very soil on which they fought, slept, and died...not just a sign, telling us what once was here and no longer exists.

Again, our sincere gratitude is tendered to our state legislators and preservation partners, whose continued efforts to preserve and interpret Tennessee's historic resources facilitated our efforts to save our endangered hallowed ground for future generations.

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