



THE COURIER



VOL. LXVIII, No. 1

TENNESSEE HISTORICAL COMMISSION, NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

WINTER 2019

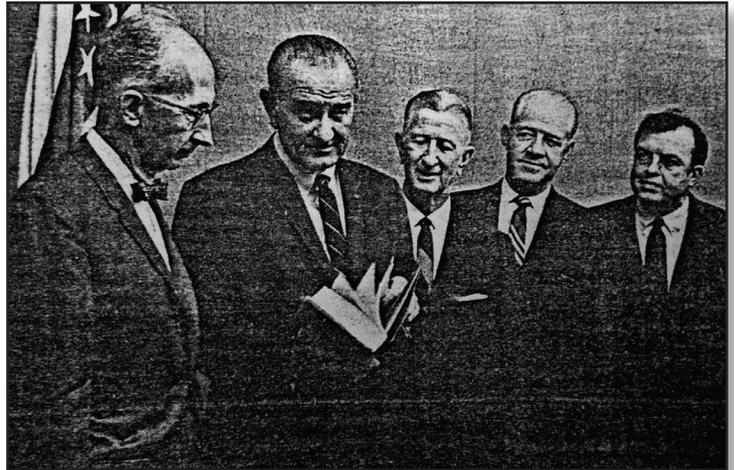
TENNESSEE HISTORICAL COMMISSION CELEBRATES CENTENNIAL YEAR

2019 marks the 100th Anniversary of the founding of the Tennessee Historical Commission. On May 22, 2019, the Commission will hold a celebration that includes an Open House and the presentation of the 2019 Certificate of Merit awards. Look for more information on the Commission's website and Facebook page as details develop.

The Commission was established as the "Tennessee Historical Committee" on January 23, 1919, under legislation signed by Gov. A.R. Roberts. The founding chairman was Tennessee State Historian John Trotwood Moore, a native of Alabama. The initial task of the Historical Committee was "to collect, compile, index, and arrange all data and information of every kind and character relating to the part that Tennessee played in the Great War and turn the same over to the State Archivist or State Librarian for safekeeping for future historians of the State." On March 29, 1921 an amendment to the Act that created the Committee expanded its role toward its modern mission, designating that the Committee could "care for the proper marking and preservation of battlefields, houses, and other places celebrated in the history of the state." This amendment was signed into law on April 21, 1921 by Governor Alfred A. Taylor.

By 1927 the Committee fulfilled its duties to gather wartime items, and today the collection is housed in the Tennessee State Library and Archives. It was apparently inactive for the next decade, following the death of Moore in 1929 and the onset of the Great Depression. In 1939, an appropriation of \$2000 was made to the Tennessee Historical Committee to beautify, maintain, and improve for the Pleasant Forest Cemetery near Concord in Knox County in memory of Governor Archibald Roane, the state's second governor, who is interred there.

*Washington, DC 1967.
President Lyndon B. Johnson looks at a volume of the THC-supported Papers of Andrew Jackson with Tennessee Historical Commission Chairman Sam B. Smith and others*



Noting that "it is deemed desirable that the Commission meet and reorganize," Governor Prentice Cooper issued an Executive Order for a meeting in his office in the State Capitol. On April 18, 1940, six of the members arrived on Capitol Hill to resuscitate the dormant group: A.P. Foster, Ms. Zella Armstrong, W. E. Beard, E.H. Boyd, Col. W.J. Bacon, and Hallum Goodloe. In addition to Gov. Cooper, Mrs. John Trotwood Moore was present. After proper motions, Gov. Cooper and Mrs. Moore were made members of the Commission, and Governor Cooper acted as chairman. Significantly, the minutes of the meeting and those thereafter exclusively used the term "Tennessee Historical Commission" to refer to the organization. Regular meetings were held from then on until the present day. An early partnership of the reinvigorated Commission that continues today was with the Tennessee Historical Society in 1942 to produce a new publication, the Tennessee Historical Quarterly. Progress toward enacting the "highway marking program" mentioned by Gov. Cooper in 1940 occurred in 1948, when the design for the now-familiar marker was

chosen in a contest judged by four architects from across the state, including Henry Hibbs of Nashville. The winning design was the creation of Robert H. McCarty, Jr. of Memphis, who received a certificate and \$20.00. Today some two thousand markers have been erected in every county in the state.

Subsequent legislative actions further defined the Commission's membership and expanded its areas of responsibility to include evaluation, acquisition, and preservation of historic sites, publication of books and other documents on Tennessee history, compilation of a Tennessee Register of Historic Places, and the general administration of funds made available from public sources for historic purposes.

The Commission's designation as Tennessee's State Historic Preservation Office following the passage of the National Historic Preservation Act in 1966 resulted in the development of an expanded professional staff to carry out the provisions of the Act. In 1971, the General Assembly authorized the Tennessee Historical

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**Centennial, continued from page 1**

Commission to establish, maintain, and expand a register of districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects significant in Tennessee history, architecture, archaeology, and culture, such to be known as the Tennessee Register of Historic Places, and set out the criteria to be used in determining the eligibility of being placed on the Register. This enabled Tennessee to comply with provisions of the National Act and to receive Federal funds thereunder. Under the National Historic Preservation Act, which provided federal money to each state for specified uses, the Tennessee Historical Commission's role greatly expanded, with historic preservation becoming its primary mission.

In 1994, the Tennessee Wars Commission was created as a division of the THC. The purpose of this commission is to coordinate, plan, preserve and promote "structures, buildings, sites and battlefields of Tennessee associated with the American Revolution and the War Between the States." From 1994 through 2019 the Wars Commission has helped saved over 7000 acres of battlefield properties across the state, including over 1500 acres currently owned by the State. These include the 346 acre Parker's Crossroads Battlefield in Henderson County and the 38 acre War of 1812- Era Camp Blount Site in Fayetteville.

Today the Tennessee Historical Commission oversees a portfolio of 17 state historic sites under its authority, managed by partner non-profits. As of 2019, there are 18 professional staff positions. The Board of the Commission consists of 29 individuals, with five ex officio positions, and 24 members appointed by



TENNESSEE HISTORICAL COMMISSION STAFF, 1979

the Governor. The Board has three regular meetings per year.

Sixteen individuals have served as chair for the Commission, and eleven individuals have served as the primary staff person. Rebecca DeWitt served from 1942 to 1956 as the secretary for the Commission. Following Mrs. DeWitt, the title for the primary staff member was "executive secretary." Stephen Lawrence, who served from 1967 to 1971 and was later the director of the Hermitage, was both the first staff member to hold the title of executive director, and he was also the first person in Tennessee designated as State Liaison Officer. That position is now known as State Historic Preservation Officer. In August, 1969, Herbert Harper joined the staff as Field Services Director and began a 36 year tenure that included 32 years as executive director. Assistant Director for State Programs Linda Wynn who joined the staff in 1974, is the longest-serving staff member.

Tennessee Historical Commission Chairmen, 1919-Present

John Trotwood Moore (Nashville) 1919-1929
 Judge Samuel Cole Williams, (Johnson City) 1940-1946
 William E. Beard (Nashville) 1946-1950
 Dan M. Robison, (Nashville) 1950-1961
 Dr. William T. Alderson, (Nashville) 1961-1964
 Sam B. Smith, (Nashville) 1964-1969
 Robert A. McGaw (Nashville) 1969-1975
 Judge Harry Wellford, (Memphis) 1975-77
 Richard W. Weesner (Nashville) 1977-1981
 Walter T. Durham, (Gallatin) 1981-1985
 Russell Hippe, (Nashville) 1985-1990
 Robert Corlew (Murfreesboro) 1990-1997
 Ward DeWitt, Jr. (Nashville) 1997-2003
 Norman Hill (Murfreesboro) 2003-2009
 Sam D. Elliott (Signal Mountain) 2009-2015
 Dr. Reavis L. Mitchell, Jr. (Nashville) 2015-Present.

Tennessee Historical Commission Executive Staff, 1942-Present

Rebecca W. DeWitt, 1942-1956, Secretary
 Dr. William T. Alderson, 1956-1961, Executive Secretary
 H. Glyn Thomas, 1962-1963, Executive Secretary
 James W. Moody, Jr., 1963-1967, Executive Secretary
 Stephen Lawrence, 1967-1971, Executive Secretary/ Executive Director
 Dr. Michael J. Smith 1971-1973, Executive Director
 Herbert L. Harper, Acting Director, 1973-1974
 Lawrence C. Henry, 1974-1975, Executive Director
 Herbert L. Harper, Executive Director, 1975-2006
 Richard G. Tune, Interim Executive Director, 2006-2007
 E. Patrick McIntyre, Jr., Executive Director, 2007-Present



TENNESSEE HISTORICAL COMMISSION STAFF, 2017



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES NEWS

By Rebecca Schmitt

Five Tennessee Properties Added to National Register of Historic Places

Oak Grove School

Sharps Chapel, Union County

Oak Grove School was built from 1934-1935 after the previous school was demolished to accommodate construction of Norris Dam reservoir. Though not an African-American school, Oak Grove School's design was based on a schoolhouse plan published by the Julius Rosenwald Fund, a program created to promote the education of African-Americans. The two-room schoolhouse housed children in grades first through eighth until 1965 when schools were consolidated.



Oak Grove School, Sharps Chapel, Union County

The nomination was prepared by Lindsay Crockett of the East Tennessee Development District

Rainbow Ranch

Madison, Davidson County

Built in 1950, Rainbow Ranch served as country music artist Hank Snow's home, office, and recording studio. Snow was one of the first people in Nashville to have a home studio, an advantage that allowed him to produce recordings more cheaply, perfect his work, and collaborate with other musicians. Among Snow's most well-known hits are "I'm Movin' On" and "I've Been Everywhere." Snow's prolific career spanned several decades and earned him a place in multiple recording artist and songwriter Hall of Fames.



Rainbow Ranch, Madison, Davidson County

The nomination was prepared by Charlie Dahan, Savannah Grandey, and Dr. Carroll Van West of the Center for Historic Preservation at Middle Tennessee State University.



Smith-Carter House Madison, Davidson County

Smith-Carter House

Madison, Davidson County

The 1925 Monterey Revival-style Smith-Carter House was the home of country music artist June Carter from 1952 until her 1968 marriage to Johnny Cash. While living there, Carter developed her career as a songwriter and regular performer on the Grand Ole Opry. Carter and Merle Kilgore wrote the Certified Gold single "Ring of Fire" in the house. After Carter moved to Hendersonville with Cash, her mother Maybelle Carter moved to the house. There she wrote "Will the Circle Be Unbroken," a song she performed with the Nitty Gritty Dirt Band. She continued to live at the house until her death in 1978.

The nomination was prepared by Ashley Brown, Typhanie Schafer, and Savannah Grandey, all of the Center for Historic Preservation at Middle Tennessee State University, and Caroline Eller and Scarlett Miles of Metro Historical Commission.



United States Post Office and Court House Columbia Maury County

United States Post Office and Court House

Columbia, Maury County

Designed in the 1930s in the Simplified Classical style, Columbia's United States Post

Office and Court House was constructed from 1940 to 1941. Artist Henry Billings painted the lobby's mural of Maury County's landscape. Since its construction, the building has housed various government offices, as well as the Post Office until the 1970s. While the building was previously listed as a contributing building in the Columbia Commercial Historic District in 1984, the individual listing more fully represents the building's historical and architectural significance.

This nomination was prepared by the U.S. General Services Administration and Emma K. Young, Architectural Historian of A.D. Marble & Company



Whitwell Cumberland Presbyterian Church, Whitwell, Marion County

Whitwell Cumberland Presbyterian Church Whitwell, Marion County

The Gothic Revival-style Whitwell Cumberland Presbyterian Church was constructed about 1892 for a small rural congregation. The church is locally significant for its architecture, conveyed by such features as the Gothic-arch windows, notched weatherboard siding, brackets, and a ribbed scalloped pressed tin shingle roof with overhanging eaves. The church is the first Whitwell building to be listed in the National Register.

The nomination was prepared by Melissa Mortimer and Jennifer Barger of the Southeast Tennessee Development District



SECTION 106 AND TAX CREDITS

By Casey Lee, Review and Compliance Division

Many of the federal programs in the State Historic Preservation Office overlap. Section 106 and the Federal Preservation Tax Credit program are two such programs, and while this overlap is rare, they create spectacular preservation projects when they do. The assistance of the federal preservation tax credit, combined with federal funding which triggers the Section 106 project, allows large scale adaptive reuse projects to be fiscally viable. In the last few years, two such projects have occurred in Memphis, Tennessee; Crosstown Concourse and the Universal Life Insurance Building.

Both of these projects received funding assistance from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to help the ventures move forward. This assistance from a federal agency triggered the Section 106 process which requires any undertaking involving a federal agency in any capacity to be reviewed by the State Historic



Crosstown Concourse

Preservation Office (SHPO). Both projects also took advantage of the federal tax credit. Such projects also require review by the SHPO and the National Park Service (NPS). Since the

projects were doubly reviewed by the SHPO, the staff of both programs worked closely together to insure consistency and efficiency in the reviews.

STATEWIDE PRESERVATION PLAN SURVEY

As the State Historic Preservation Office, the Tennessee Historical Commission is required by the Historic Preservation Planning Program of the National Park Service to complete a comprehensive historic preservation plan every five to ten years. A critical part of the planning process is public engagement. To help accomplish this, an online survey has been developed to determine what aspects of historic preservation are important to you. We plan to have the survey on our web page by late February 2019. Your input is valued, and

we want you to participate. Please go to our website at tnhistoricalcommission.org. Click on the "Federal Programs" tab and then on the "Tennessee's Plan for Historic Preservation" link to access the survey. The survey is scheduled to end on March 31, 2019.

The Historic Preservation Planning Program of the National Park Service develops national policy related to historic preservation planning. Preservation planning is the rational, systematic process by which a community

develops a vision, goals, and priorities for the preservation of its historic and cultural resources. The community seeks to achieve its vision through its own actions and through influencing the actions of others. Goals and priorities are based on analyses of resource data and relative environmental ramifications, and community values. The Historic Preservation Planning Program helps communities of all kinds make sense of the planning process and ensure it is useful and effective.

The goals of the Historic Preservation Planning Program are to strengthen the integration of historic preservation into broader public policy and land-use planning and decision-making arenas at the federal, state, tribal, and local levels; increase the opportunities for broad-based and diverse public participation in planning for historic and cultural resources; expand knowledge and skills in historic preservation planning; and assist states, tribes, local governments, and federal agencies in carrying out inclusive preservation planning programs that are responsive to their own needs, concerns

HISTORICAL MARKERS

At its meeting on October 19, 2018 the Tennessee Historical Commission approved six historical markers: *Reedy Creek Missionary Baptist Church*, Carroll County; *William J. Faulkner*, Davidson County; *Hotel Dixieland*, Humphreys County; *Tennessee Crash Kills 10*, Smith County; and *The Cash Home and The Orchard*, Sumner County. Those interested in submitting proposed texts for markers should contact Linda T. Wynn at the Tennessee Historical Commission, 2941 Lebanon Pike, Nashville, Tennessee 37243-0442, or call (615) 770-1093.



PUBLICATIONS TO NOTE

By Linda T. Wynn

Assistant Director for State Programs & Publications Editor

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

Southern History on Screen: Race and Rights, 1976-2016 edited by Bryan M. Jack is a compilation of ten essays that provide an all-inclusive awareness of how contemporaneous films about the South have materialized from a century-long racist cinematic practice and how post-civil rights multiculturalism has led to more accurate and subtle representations of the nation's racial history. Films have been influential in the portrayal and representation of race relations in the South and how African Americans are cinematically depicted in history from *Birth of a Nation* (1915), *Gone with the Wind* (1939) to *The Help* (2011) and *12 Years a Slave* (2013). Jack analyzes films through the lens of religion, politics, race, sex, and class, thereby constructing an inclusive view of the southern region as viewed on the silver screen. *Southern History on Screen: Race and Rights, 1976-2016* investigates the intersection of film, historical memory, and southern identity. **Cloth: \$50.00.**

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

The University of North Carolina Press recently published Nia Silber's *This War Ain't Over: Fighting the Civil War in New Deal America*, which examines how historical memory offers people an understanding and defining themselves in the present. The New Deal era witnessed a surprising surge in popular engagement with history and memory of the Civil War era. From the omnipresent book and film *Gone With the Wind* and the scores of popular theater productions to Aaron Copeland's "A Lincoln Portrait," it was hard to miss America's fascination with the war in the 1930s and 1940s. Silber reveals how during a moment of enormous national turmoil, the events and personages of the Civil War provide a framework for reassessing national identity, class conflict, and racial and ethnic division. As Louis P. Masur, author of *Lincoln's Last Speech*, stated, this book not

only deepens one's understanding of the Civil War in American memory, but it also breaks new ground in understanding New Deal America. **Cloth, \$32.95.**

University of Tennessee Press, 110 Conference Center, 600 Henley Street, Knoxville, Tennessee 37996

The University of Tennessee Press published two books on education in Memphis and Shelby County, Tennessee. *Race, Economics, and the Politics of Educational Change: The Dynamics of School District Consolidation in Shelby County, Tennessee*, edited by John M. Amis and Paul M. Wright. A compilation of nine chapters by noted scholars that examines the consolidation of the Memphis City Schools (MCS) and the Shelby County Schools (SCS) from a variety of disciplinary perspectives. The authors investigate the history of the Memphis school system, the economic factors that arise in consolidations, the socioeconomic inequalities borne of long-term racism that lie in the background of the system's recent history, and the political situation that promises to complicate the consolidation process. Amis and Wright provide a valuable research tool for researchers, students, policy makers, and educators. **Hardback, \$59.95.**

Opportunity Lost: Race and Poverty in the Memphis City Schools by Marcus D. Pohlmann examines the troubling issue of why Memphis city school students underperformed at alarming rates. This provocative interdisciplinary analysis combines both history and social science. The author investigates the events before and after school desegregation, compares a city school to an affluent suburban school to pinpoint imbalances, and offers critical assessments of various educational reforms. In addition to his analysis of the problems, Pohlmann lays out educational reforms that run the gamut from early intervention and parental involvement to increasing teacher compensation, improving time utilization, and more. His illuminating and original study has wide application for a problem that assails inner-city children everywhere

and prevents the promise of equality from reaching all the nation's citizens. **Cloth, \$42.00**

Timothy D. Johnson's *For Duty and Honor: Tennessee's Mexican War Experience* was published by the University of Tennessee Press in November 2018. History remembers Tennessee's role in the Mexican War mostly for its large contribution of volunteers and its subsequent state moniker "The Volunteer State." Beliefs persist that the Mexican-American War was a massive land grab for the United States in its pursuit of the Manifest Destiny doctrine, and Tennesseans enlisted to protect and expand the institution of slavery. As Johnson observes in *For Duty and Honor*, these typecasts do not accurately depict the motivations of Tennesseans. Through a pithy examination of journals, memoirs, and letters, Johnson reveals that Tennesseans volunteered out of a sense of duty and honor—values that were entrenched in the early national period. In this work, Johnson provides a historical and political context for the Mexican-American War. *For Duty and Honor* considers not only Tennessee's role in the battle, but also the postwar endeavors by veterans to fashion the Mexican War's bequest. This volume brings to the forefront a forgotten moment in Tennessee's rich history. **Hardback, \$39.95.**

Andrew Jackson: A Rhetorical Portrayal of Presidential Leadership by Amos Kiewe produces a groundbreaking exploration into Jackson studies by concentrating on an under-studied aspect of the Andrew Jackson's 1828 campaign and subsequent presidency, by probing his creative use of the press. Jackson astutely directed his speeches—like no previous candidate—to the public at large and received unmatched newspaper reportage during his campaign and time in office. By focusing on public addresses, the author follows Jackson's rhetorical political maneuvering through his early campaign and the major trials of his presidency. With nuance and deep examination of Jackson's rhetoric, Kiewe dissipates the myth that Jackson was not a communicative writer,

Publications, continued on page 6



RECENT NATIONAL REGISTER LISTINGS

Since the last issue of The Courier there have been six new entries to the National Register of Historic Places from Tennessee. The properties are the following:

United States Post Office and Court House, Maury County

(Previously listed as a part of Columbia Commercial Historic District)

Rainbow Ranch, Davidson County

Smith--Carter House, Davidson County

Whitwell Cumberland Presbyterian Church,

Marion County

Oak Grove School, Union County

Franklin Historic District (Additional Documentation)

There are now **2,208** entries in the National Register from Tennessee including **287** districts for a total of **44,231** resources now listed.

Publications, continued from page 5

thereby clarifying historical perceptions of his presidency and relationship to the public at large. Tracing Jackson's initial plans for the presidency through his campaign and early time in office, Kiewe sheds light on Jackson's ambitions, viewpoints, and strategies and deepens the scholarship on the Tennessee soldier and political leader. This work advances meaningful understanding into one of America's most celebrated—and ill-famed—presidents and adds innovative and crucial information to the study of rhetoric and politics in America. **Hardback, \$39.95.**

Brook Lamb's *Overton Park: A People's History* tells the story of a 342-acre public space that contains the world-class Memphis Zoo, an old-growth forest, the Memphis College of Art, an amphitheater, and the Memphis Brooks Museum of Art, among other beloved facilities. Created in 1901, the park has been the center of both celebration and controversy. Performers, such as Elvis Presley and Johnny Cash entertained audiences, local children enjoyed its playgrounds, and runners jogged its trails. During the Modern Civil Rights era, desegregating the park became a major goal of local activists, and the park's Greensward was the scene of Vietnam War protests. From the late 1960s and throughout the 1970s, when the proposed route of Interstate 40 threatened the park, concerned citizens came together to contest the plan—a fight that went to the Supreme Court and ultimately protected the park for generations to come. Brooks Lamb, currently the conservation

projects manager for rural lands at The Land Trust for Tennessee, interviewed numerous individuals from civil rights activist Johnnie Turner to U.S. Congressman Steve Cohen, from artist Martha Kelly to retired zookeepers Kathy Fay and Richard Meek—to ascertain what Overton Park meant to them and to unearth the changes they have witnessed. ***Overton Park: A People's History*** enables one to appreciate the history of public recreation and entertainment in 20th century Memphis. **Paper, \$24.95.**

Fonthill Media/Arcadia Publishing, America Through Time Series, 420 Wando Park Blvd, Mt. Pleasant, SC 2018. ***History in Tennessee: Lost Episodes in the Volunteer State's Past.*** Thirty-five year veteran public historian on the staff of the Tennessee Historical Commission, James B. Jones' new book ***History in Tennessee: Lost Episodes in the Volunteer State's Past*** does not pretend to be a history of Tennessee. Rather it should be thought of as a mosaic of the state's history, each entry being a piece of a larger picture that presents, overall, a unique portrait of Tennessee's past. The reader expecting a linear treatment of state history, a tedious straight line of dates, personalities, and events, will not be content with ***History in Tennessee.*** It promotes the view that there is more to history than stories of "famous men." Entries are made on the basis of a calendar. This reader friendly format lends itself to exploring the nature of the past as more wide-ranging than most formal Tennessee history books. For example, this book covers: the struggle against the restrictions of the Jim Crow era; the popularity of social organizations

such as 19th century military drill teams and volunteer fire companies; little known aspects of the Civil War; violence in the form of duels and outright murders; lynchings, pseudo duels and street shoot outs. Other topics include: politics; medicinal history; drug use and laws aimed at its prevention; epidemics and other urban public health issues; moonshining, bootlegging, and prohibition; public executions; the reform of prostitution from the antebellum days through the Progressive Era; aviation; juvenile delinquency; charities; education; labor struggles; the introduction of bicycling; public militia exhibitions and "sham battles," as well as the odd social custom of throwing confetti in early 20th century Tennessee. The text is written with the view in mind that lengthy academic expostulations of the state's past are unwelcome to the general history reader. Entries do not bog down in speculative squabbles about causation and effect. The author believes readers will decide for themselves the importance of the historical accounts in the book. It is written with the goal of providing Tennesseans with hitherto unknown aspects about parts of their state's past. Gold, it is said, is where you find it. These sketches are narrative gold of a historical nature, found in overlooked newspaper reports, official documents and private letters and correspondence. There is nothing "fake" about them. ***History in Tennessee: Lost Episodes in the Volunteer State's Past*** demonstrates that the past is at times a foreign country. 442 pages. **Paper, \$24.95.**



THE DELETERIOUS EFFECTS OF DIME NOVELS UPON 19TH CENTURY YOUTH.

By James B. Jones, Jr., Public Historian

On June 17, 1882, the Nashville *Daily American* included a rare human interest story decrying “trashy literature” and its ruinous effects upon the development of moral fiber and social conduct of juvenile boys. Such ten-cent reading material was judged a clear and present danger leading youths to a life of depraved crime and dissipated ruin. Because the First Amendment prohibited any law to suppress the printing of such “dime novels,” it was the responsibility of parents to curb the reading of such outrageous literature and align their sons on the proper path to moral redemption. The tone of the letter is reminiscent of some contemporary claims that video and role-playing games corrupt young minds. According to the article:

WHAT THE BOYS READ.

The Glorification of Crime and the Depraving of Youth.

The Trashy Effects which Daily Corrupt the Morals of the Young.

Among all the fruitful causes of frightful depravity of today among the boys and youths of our country there is none more potent than the trashy literature which floods the country and which is supplied by ever newsstand in every city to feed the morbid appetite of its votaries. The reading of it is not an exception, but a rule, and the boys of parents able to furnish better mental food are the more addicted to it, because they possess the greater means to procure it. In this day of cheap reading, when almost all the finest specimens of modern and older fiction can be procured at such a low cost, there is no reason why every family where there are boys cannot be furnished with healthful, wholesome reading. When ten cents will buy a work that our fathers could only procure at twenty times the cost, there is no excuse for the extensive circulation of the vile trash published by New York firms, whose sole object must be to deprave human nature by the publication of the worst “rot” that could be imagined.

It may be said that this stuff is cheap, but it is not cheap; it is printed on the coarsest, dirtiest paper and illustrated with the coarsest pictures. In all this line of papers “for boys and young gentlemen” there is never published a story the hero of which is respectable, and never printed a picture that is not full of grossest caricatures and deformity.

The hero is always young and noted for finding out in some sneaking manner the vile sins of his father, the rascality of his employer, by which he gets money and enjoys unheard-of privileges as a sort of blackmail. None of these boys follow any respectable business or any honorable occupation. They are young pirates, ruffians and blacklegs, and their careers are written with the devilish ear that lures the young and silly reader of them into emulating their deeds. Parents are always harsh and unjust, schools are prison houses of cruelty and the teachers are invariably tyrants who have no affection whatever for the boys and rarely a single redeeming trait of character, unless he sides with the boys, runs away with them from school and becomes a vagabond, wandering over the world, dead-beating his way in impossible manners, thrashing out hordes of banditti and entire tribes of Indians by the most remarkable methods.

Outlawry is glorified and murder forms so large a part of these stories that it is no wonder that some such cases occur as that of the boy of fourteen who was lynched for cold-blooded assassination a few days ago in Minnesota. Emulation of the characters in the trashy stories he had been reading he assigned as the reason of his deed. How many homes are daily saddened and how many lives blighted and ruined, how many fond hopes crushed, but the results of reading the infamous publications of such firms as those referred to. As said above, these papers are not cheap, for the same amount of money would buy a larger quantity of reading matter, well primed and calculated to improve instead of vitiating the taste. Take the “libraries.” These villainous publications contain sixteen pages of vile printing, and are sold for a nickel. The standard “libraries,” published by reputable firms, are larger in page, and ten cents buys one containing forty or even sixty or more pages. The embrace history, biography travel and adventure, scientific subjects, wit, humor, poetry, fiction – every class of literature. The contents of the others can be judged from their titles, samples of which, copied from the supplies of the stand of a Nashville newsdealer, are here given. Note the elegance of the titles: “Snoozer, the Boy Sharp;” “Evil Eye, the King of the Cattle Thieves;” “Capt. Apollo, the Kingpin of Bowie, or Flash o’ Lightning’s Feud;” “One-eyed Sim;” “Hawkeye Henry;” “Deadly Eye;” “Faro Frank;” “Old

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

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Executive Director & SHPO
Dr. James B. Jones, Jr., Public Historian,
Editor, The Courier
Linda T. Wynn, Assistant Director of
State Programs and Publications Editor

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 \$0.23 per copy, 06/17.

STATE OF TENNESSEE
TENNESSEE HISTORICAL COMMISSION
2941 LEBANON PIKE
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37214

THE COURIER

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Permit No 2093

Effects, continued from page 7

Frosty;" "Vagabond Jo;" "The Boy Bedouins;" "The Boy Demon;" "The Boy Pard;" "Roving Jo, or the History of a Young Border Ruffian;" "Jack Hoyle, the Young Speculator, or the Road to Fortune;" "Sassy Sam, or a Bootblack's Voyage Around the World;" "Daddy Brush, Taken in and Done For;" "The Red Headed League."

These are fair samples of the whole lot. They can be seen on any news-stand, by anyone who imagines them gotten up for use in this article. The stories themselves are fairly gotten up to the titles. The titles give in every instance the heroes of the stories. From a single page in one of these stories are taken the following choice expressions, which indicate the style of conversation adopted:

"Shut up; yar too fresh; go take salt;" "You arn't sic game;" "That's what I warble; yes, yer bet I weaken" "Give me another taste of the sucker." "Joe learned of an old rooster, a naturalist." "Yer a snide." "I'm stuffed; full as a goat." "Be gob sic I wud I wur a Nihilist." There are plenty more, but surely that is enough. And the sub-title of the sheet is, "An Entertaining and Instructive Journal for American Youths!"

Ridiculous as all this may appear, it is a serious

matter. Nothing but evil can possibly come of it. All sorts of crimes are condoned or justified, and the boys are quick to take the lesson. Newsdealers say that the boys who buy these things have to be watched all the time, and in spite of the closest watching, they still manage to steal them. Two or three days ago an *American* reporter was standing on the Maxwell House corner, when a boy, coming down Church street with two of these papers, met a companion on the corner, who asked: "Did you get it?" "You bet." "What racket?" "Oh, the same old lay; one in the other." "He'll tumble to that and jump you; every other fellow has got on to that lay, and fag you." These boys were both of good family. Yet, one of these lads, depraved by the mental pabulum he stooped to steal, boasted of the act.

Can it be remedied? may well be asked, and may well be doubted: After a youth arrives at the age when he has sense enough to see the falsity and the lowness of this stuff, there is no danger of his picking up a taste for it. But the young who begin reading it are depraved before they acquire sense enough to stop it, and turn out young vagabonds and loafers, familiar with all the ways of crime.

The only remedy in which there is any hope is in more attention by parents to what their children

are reading. Those who can read will read, and it is easy to direct the taste to a proper channel. With so many cheap and elegant publications as there are now seen on the stalls of newsdealers, there is no excuse for any family where there are children, being without good reading matter. Unless the parents take it in hand there is little hope of correcting the rapid spread of vicious reading and the crime that necessarily accompanies this increase. They must give it serious attention, not spasmodically, but continued, until there is some perceptible improvement; until cheek and effrontery are not looked upon by their boys as energy and independence; until indecency and the low dialect of rowdies and roughs do not pass for wit; until every paper that seeks to inflame the basest passions of human nature, to glorify crime and outlawry is forced to suspend, and when popular opinion will not suffer the purchase of a paper from the same counter where these villainous, poisonous and depraved periodicals are exposed for sale. Since there can be no law for their suppression, popular opinion must take the matter in hand. The traffic can be suppressed in this way, and the sooner it is done the fewer of the boys of this city and of this country will be sent to destruction by the perusal of this corrupting and debasing trash.