



THE COURIER

TENNESSEE HISTORICAL COMMISSION, NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

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In This Issue:

Cemetery Preservation Program • Mapping Historic Places • e106 Online Submission Portal

TENNESSEE HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Cemetery Preservation Program to Launch Statewide Cemetery Map this Fall

By Graham Perry, THC Cemetery Program Specialist

The mission of the Tennessee Historic Cemetery Preservation Program is to identify, protect, and preserve Tennessee's historic cemeteries while serving as an historical and cultural resource for the public. Goals include documenting historic cemeteries, providing cemetery-care advice to the public, and coordinating advisory committee efforts.

The program flourishes under the leadership of Historic Cemetery Preservation Specialist Graham Perry. Perry has paid special attention to working with specialist Andrew McDonagh at the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation and East Tennessee State University graduate student Heather White, to ensure the release of the new statewide cemetery map. Since the upcoming Tennessee Historic Cemetery Register Program is coupled with the publication of this map, it has become crucial to expedite the process. It is scheduled to come online this fall.

Perry continually assists callers with various cemetery issues, a few of which have required significant attention. For example, he recently worked successfully with Wilson County officials and a host of other interested parties to ensure that a long-forgotten cemetery near Mt. Juliet was protected from a potential building project. Unfortunately, the landowner had not been informed of the cemetery's existence at the time of purchase. As a result of this experience, THC highly recommends that sellers of property and their representatives practice due diligence to ensure the recording of any known cemeteries on deeds and to disclose their existence to prospective buyers prior to transfer as required by state law (**TCA 46-8-103, TCA 62-13-403**). In this case, the cemetery was not listed on any previous deed, but had been identified in a previous survey. As a matter of practice, a surveyor is required by state law to do proper research to determine if a cemetery exists or has ever existed on the property (**TCA 62-18-127**).

Perry frequently makes public speaking appearances upon request, some of the more recent being at the Cane Ridge Community Center in Davidson County, the Todd Family Cemetery Organization in Murfreesboro, and the Lebanon Chamber of Commerce. In addition, cemetery visits have picked up noticeably. Some of the more recent visits include the Isaac Shelton Gravesite on the Appalachian Trail in Greene County, the Spring Hill Cemetery in Madison, the Pioneer Cemetery in Castalian Springs, and the Bruce Cemetery in Mount Pleasant. Perry always welcomes new information regarding any cemetery site regardless of size or location throughout the state. The THC Cemetery Database to-date includes more than 32,500 known cemeteries with more being added each day.



Unnamed cemetery nearly lost to time near Mt. Juliet, Tennessee.

THC would especially like to thank members of the current Cemetery committee whose role it is to examine state statutes and suggest relevant changes in state cemetery law. Members include Dr. Beverly Bond (Memphis), Ms. Fletch Coke (Nashville), Dr. Kevin J. Hales (Knoxville), Mr. Nick Fielder (Former State Archeologist), Mrs. Loni Harris (Jackson), and Mr. Phil Hodge (State Archeologist).

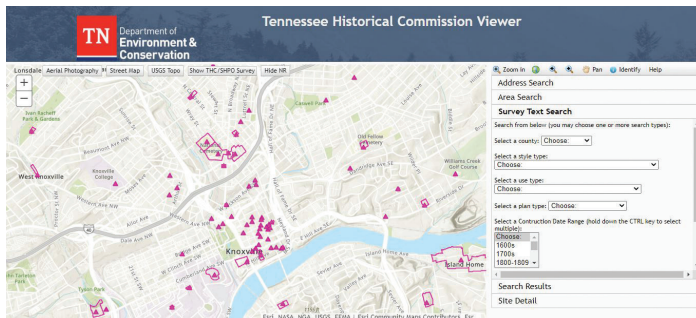


Shelton Graves, Greene County Tennessee.



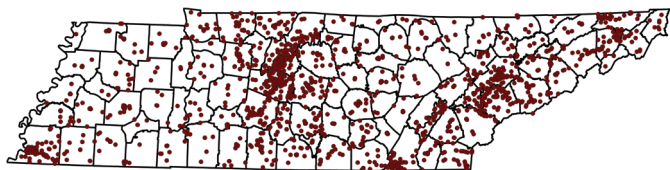
MAPPING THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

By Rebecca Schmitt



Have you ever wondered where Tennessee's historic places are located? Thanks to a recent initiative by the THC Federal Programs, you need not wonder anymore. In July 2022, a new GIS layer of National Register listed properties became available on the THC Historic Properties Online Viewer. The Viewer is an online mapping tool that THC Federal Programs staff use to make historic data available to researchers and the general-public. Previously, the viewer only included data from the Historic Resource Survey program, which includes information about properties that are more than 50 years old but have not necessarily received any type of historic designation. The new National Register layer identifies the locations of properties that have been listed in the National Register of Historic Places, excluding archaeological sites whose locations must be kept confidential to protect the site. This project is the culmination of a multi-year effort in collaboration with the Fullerton Laboratory for Spatial Technology at Middle Tennessee State University. The project was partially funded by a federal Historic Preservation Fund grant.

Please check out our THC Historic Properties Viewer by following this link or typing it into your browser: <https://tnmap.tn.gov/historicalcommission/>. Data from the Historic Resources Survey program is represented by yellow circles. The National Register listings are represented by pink triangles. Some properties also include pink polygons depicting the boundaries of the listing. Approximately 30% of the listings have been mapped with exact boundaries, and staff are continuing to develop this layer with periodic updates to the viewer. Please note that a single listing of a historic district may include multiple properties: if you think a property is listed within a historic district, you may have to look in the vicinity of the property to see if there is a triangle representing the district listing. Copies of National Register nominations can be obtained from the National Archives and Records Administration at <https://catalog.archives.gov/>.



e106 ONLINE SUBMISSION PORTAL

By Kelley Reid

The Section 106 staff are pleased to introduce our new e106 online submission portal. Section 106 projects are now submitted through a form that captures the basic information and documentation we need to begin our review. Once the form and attachments are submitted, the information is populated on the staff side where it is automatically saved to a secure database. Our staff can then review and respond to the project within this secure environment. Overall, the e106 portal has made our review process more efficient, allowing us to better serve our customers.



Nine Tennessee Properties Added to the National Register of Historic Places

The National Register of Historic Places is the nation's official list of cultural resources worthy of preservation. It is part of a nationwide program that coordinates and supports efforts to identify, evaluate, and protect historic resources. The State Historic Preservation Office administers the program in Tennessee. The state's new listings are:

Auburntown High School Gym,
listed July 8, 2022
(Auburntown - Cannon County)

The Auburntown High School Gym is located in the small rural community of Auburntown in Cannon County. The gym was constructed in 1937 by the Works Progress Administration, one of the New Deal's most impactful programs. Following its completion, the Auburntown High School Gym became the first and only indoor sports facility for the community. Touted as modern and accommodating after its construction, the gym's features included hardwood floors, raised bleachers, and two parallel rows of five 500-watt bulbs that provided superior lighting. These features quickly made the gym the focal point of Auburntown's entertainment and recreation activities with many community and social events held at the gym. The gym has served the community continuously since its construction, though the closing of the Auburntown Elementary School in 2022 marks a new chapter in the gym's history.

**Montgomery Bell CCC Camp SP-5/
NP-15,**
listed July 18, 2022
(Burns - Dickson County)

Located in Montgomery Bell State Park, the Montgomery Bell CCC Camp was occupied by African American laborers who played a significant role in the construction of the park between 1935-1942. The Civilian Conservation Corps



Photo Courtesy of Savannah Grandey Knies, 2021.

(CCC) was a New Deal Program created to address unemployment through useful public work during the Great Depression. Though initially created with non-discrimination policies, segregation quickly became common practice in the organization. The Montgomery Bell CCC Camp was one such segregated camp and housed Company 4497, a junior company comprised of roughly 200 African American men. They were responsible for the construction of many important park features, such as Lake Acorn and Woodhaven, Group Camps I and II, park roads, campgrounds, bridges,

and park offices. In 1942 the CCC was terminated, and the camp was dismantled except for one building, which was later moved elsewhere in the park. Members of the CCC returned for reunions held at the park by the National Association of Civilian Conservation Corps Alumni, Middle Tennessee Chapter in the 1990s. Today, the camp serves as a significant archaeological site providing information about the experiences of African American CCC members. This nomination is the result of a survey that was partially funded by a federal Historic Preservation Fund grant.





Photo Courtesy of Melissa Mortimer, 2021.

Ridgedale Lodge,
listed July 7, 2022
(Chattanooga - Hamilton County)

Ridgedale Lodge is a former Masonic Lodge built in 1925 as the home of Ridgedale Lodge #660. The members of Ridgedale Lodge engaged in local philanthropy throughout their long history. Examples of their philanthropy include outreach to underprivileged children and financially supporting education initiatives in the city. In addition to its historical value, Ridgedale Lodge is also an excellent example of the Neo-Classical Revival Style architectural style. The Lodge was designed by well-known Chattanooga architect Clarence Jones and retains much of his original design, including its carved pediments, masonry detailing, and fenestration patterns. The interior also retains its original features, the centerpiece being the unaltered stage for the Masonic York Rites degrees. The lodge closed in 2020. The current owner of the building plans on rehabilitating

the building for use as office space using federal historic tax credits.

Howell Nurseries,
listed July 26, 2022
(Knoxville - Knox County)

Howell Nurseries is important for its contributions to both agriculture and landscape architecture. Members of the Howell

Family established a nursery business in the mid-nineteenth century. By 1895, SS Howell had become known for his prize-winning strawberries and the next five generations built on this tradition. The Howells opened thirteen different locations across the south-east, developed a catalog and mail order business, contributed new cultivars of trees like dogwoods to the horticultural world, and served as horticultural educators and ambassadors to their local community and other professional organizations. Fifth generation owner, Joe N. Howell and his cousin Martha Howell, also made Howell Nurseries synonymous with landscape architecture and design. Joe and Martha erected stone hardscapes and demonstration gardens throughout the property to demonstrate their skill and beautify the property. In 2002, the property became home to the Knoxville Botanical Garden and Arboretum and is open for free to the public.



Photo Courtesy of Nissa Dahlin-Brown, 2021.



Greer-Gill Farm,
listed July 7, 2022
(Petersburg - Lincoln County)

Nestled in the rural fields outside of Petersburg, Lincoln County is the Greer-Gill Farm. Acquired by William Warren Gill in 1943, the Greer-Gill Farm was both an active participant in the Lincoln County's agricultural history and a leader in the local walking horse industry. The first owner, William Warren Gill, was considered a "master horseman" and was known locally as an excellent judge and breeder of horses. He served as the president of the Tennessee Walking Horse Breeders Association of America. The next owner, William Warren Gill II, also kept Tennessee Walking Horses on the property and transitioned the farm to meet the needs of modern Tennessee farming. The centerpiece of the farm is the Greer-Gill Farmhouse, a one story, brick Gothic Revival Style house built in 1857 by then-owner Jefferson Greer. An excellent example of its style, the Greer-Gill Farmhouse features signature characteristics of the style such as the pointed double arches on the front porch, steeply pitched cross-gable roof, and intricate decorative wooden trim. The current owners and Greer family descendants are leaders in the agricultural profession and remain actively involved in the day-to-day management of the Greer-Gill Farm as a working farm.



Photo Courtesy of Sarah Elizabeth Hickman-Leod, 2019

Georgetown Road,
listed March 23, 2022
(Georgetown - Meigs County)

This .12-mile segment of the Georgetown Road was nominated under the "Historic and Archeological Resources of the Cherokee Trail of Tears" Multiple Property

Photo Courtesy of Savannah Grandey Knies, 2020.



Submission. From 1838-1839, the United States government forcibly removed more than 15,000 Cherokee from their homes in North Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, and Tennessee. They were forced to travel thousands of miles, often during harsh conditions, to Indian Territory in present-day Oklahoma. Thousands of people died, leading to the event being called "The Trail of Tears." In the Fall of 1838, more than 9,000 Cherokee traveled along the nominated segment of the Georgetown Road to Blythe Ferry, where they crossed the Tennessee River. In the years following removal, Georgetown Road continued to be a major transportation thoroughfare. In the 1920s it was renamed State Road 83, and then State Road 60 in 1940. Segments of the road were enlarged or slightly realigned over time, though some segments of the old

roadbed, like this one, were left unaltered. Today, descendants of the Cherokee hold commemorative walks on the nominated road segment, the most recent walk held on November 9, 2019.

Benevolent Cemetery,
listed May 16, 2022
(Murfreesboro - Rutherford County)

The Benevolent Cemetery is an important example of how cemeteries can reflect the social, cultural, and religious life of African American communities. Benevolent Cemetery was established on land purchased in 1897 by the trustees of Benevolent Lodge No. 11. The Lodge was the local chapter of the Benevolent Society, an African American organization founded in Nashville in 1865. Documented burials in the Benevolent Cemetery span from 1897 to 2002, with most burials occurring before the 1970s. The Cemetery is also the largest private African American burial ground within Murfreesboro. Those interred in the cemetery represent all social classes of African Americans who lived in Murfreesboro, including medical doctors, Civil War Veterans, women educators, and many others. Their legacies are preserved within Benevolent Cemetery, which is currently under the care of Allen Chapel A.M.E. Church, also of Murfreesboro.



Photo Courtesy of Carroll Van West, John Lodl, and Savannah Grandey Knies, 2020-2021.





Photo Courtesy of W. Byrum, 2022.

Parkview Hotel Apartments,
listed July 7, 2022
(*Memphis - Shelby County*)

Parkview Hotel Apartments was nominated for its historical ties to community planning in Memphis and as an excellent local example of Neo-Classical Style architecture in apartment style hotel buildings. Located adjacent to Overton Park, the Parkview Hotel Apartments were constructed in 1923 at a cost of \$1,300,000. When it was completed, Parkview was the only “residential hotel” in the city of Memphis. Parkview offered apartments

for tenants to rent monthly and served as a hotel for transient guests. The design of the Parkview emphasized grandeur of scale, classical features, and symmetrical fenestration and form. It quickly became a desirable residence both for its design and overlook of Overton Park. The Apartments changed hands several times over the course of its life. The current owners plan to rehabilitate the building using the federal historic tax credit.

Ernest C. Withers House,
listed July 7, 2022
(*Memphis - Shelby County*)

The Ernest C. Withers house is associated with Memphis native Ernest C. Withers, a nationally significant member and photographer of the Civil Rights Movement. A Memphis-native, Withers’ first experience with photography occurred when he was in 8th grade. He continued to refine his craft through the years, even as he worked in other professions to make ends meet. After serving in World War II, Withers opened a photography studio in Memphis using funds from the GI Bill. He soon achieved international acclaim for his work documenting the Civil Rights Movement. Withers captured significant events in the Movement, such as the trial for the murderers of Emmett Till, the Memphis Sanitation Workers Strike, and the Montgomery Bus Boycott. These images raised national public awareness to the injustices facing African Americans and the need for activism and racial justice. In addition to documenting the Civil Rights Movement, he also captured the everyday lives of African Americans in Memphis, providing an important record of the vitality and history of those communities. His descendants continue to honor and preserve Withers’ legacy for future generations.



Photo Courtesy of Kelsey Lamkin, 2021.



NEW COMMISSION MEMBERS



Susan Richardson Williams of Knoxville was appointed by Gov. Lee on January 7, 2022. A resident of Knoxville who was raised in Savannah, Tennessee, Ms. Williams is a graduate of the University of Tennessee. Ms. Williams brings decades of diverse experience in the public and private sectors in the fields of government and community relations

to her new role on the THC board. She has served in the Cabinet of two Governors and on the staff of a third. She is a current board member and past president of the East Tennessee Historical Society. Williams is a former board member of the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA), where her work in establishing a new land policy for that entity led her to being recognized as “Land Conservationist of the Year” by the Tennessee Wildlife Federation. Williams served on the University of Tennessee Board of Trustees for 12 years. In 2007 and 2008, Williams was recognized as one of the “Top 100 Most Powerful Tennesseans” in “Business TN” magazine. She is married to Dick Williams of Greeneville and has three grown children. She and Dick are currently raising their grandchildren Jordan and Janae. Williams enjoys genealogy, the beach, golf, reading, and politics.

Brad Grantham of Bolivar was appointed by Gov. Lee on January 31, 2022. Grantham chairs the Bolivar Historical Zoning Commission. He owns and operates a construction company, specializing in architectural design and build. Grantham focuses on historic preservation projects for residential and commercial buildings. He is also a former past president of the Association for the Preservation of Tennessee Antiquities. Grantham is also a Hardeman County commissioner and manager of the Art Moderne Luez Theater, which he restored in 2018. As founder of the Bolivar Historical Society, he and his wife Elizabeth recently purchased and are in the process of restoring The Pillars, the former home of the prominent Bills/Polk family. The circa 1820s home is located in Bolivar and is listed on the National Register.



Laura Todd of Collierville was appointed by Gov. Lee on February 28, 2022. Todd is the Principal for Downtown District Consulting and has over 20 years of experience with the Main Street Program. She served for over 15 years as the executive director of Main Street Collierville, where during her tenure the city was recognized by Parade Magazine as the

“Best Main Street in America.” She has served as the chair of the Shelby County Historical Commission, on the Collierville Historic District Commission, and is the past president of the Leadership Collierville Board of Trustees. A graduate of the University of Mississippi, Todd and her husband are the parents of Trey, a licensed civil engineer in Murfreesboro.

Dan Pomeroy of Nashville was appointed by Gov. Lee on June 16, 2022. Pomeroy retired in 2021 after 45 years at the Tennessee State Museum, as the longtime chief curator and director of collections. He began his career at the State Museum in 1977, after serving as Deputy Director of the Tennessee American Revolution Bicentennial Commission. Pomeroy attended the Citadel and holds a Bachelor of Science and Master of Arts in College Teaching in History, with and emphasis in Southern U. S. History, from the University of Tennessee at Knoxville. He is a former president of the Tennessee Association of Museums (TAM) and the Tennessee Historical Society. Born in Oak Ridge and raised in Kingsport, Pomeroy has three grown children, Melinda, Robert, and Will.



Reggie Mudd of Gallatin was appointed by Gov. Lee on June 16, 2022. Mr. Mudd and his wife Mary Anne own multiple historic buildings and other properties in Gallatin. He is a native of Bardstown, Kentucky, and a graduate of Centre College. In 1997 Mr. Mudd retired from Cracker Barrel as Senior Vice President of Operations/Chief Op-

erations Officer. In 2011, he was appointed by Gov Bill Haslam as the regional director for Economic and Community Development for Northern Middle Tennessee. A former president of the Gallatin Noon Rotary Club, he has received numerous honors, including being twice named as Gallatin Citizen of the Year. Mudd is a Class of 2013 graduate of Leadership Middle Tennessee, and he is a former board member and vice chair of the Tennessee Preservation Trust. He and Mary Anne have a grown son, Nick, and a two-year-old granddaughter, Elsie Jo.

In addition to the appointed members, new ex officio member, Tennessee State Library and Archives Director **James Ritter**, assumed his position in July. Ritter, who replaces Chuck Sherrill, served previously for eight years as the State Librarian of Maine. He is currently on the Board of Trustees for the Chief Officers for State Library Agencies.



VAUGHAN RETIRES FROM THC



In January, Grants Administrator Brenda Vaughan retired from the State of Tennessee after a distinguished 40-year career, the last six years of her tenure being with the Tennessee Historical Commission. Mrs. Vaughan joined the THC staff in April 2016. In her role she skillfully oversaw the administration and management of the THC grant programs, ensuring adherence to state and federal regulations in all aspects of the grant process and grant allocations. Mrs. Vaughan was also responsible for all purchasing and procurement for the Commission.

For Vaughan, her tenure at the THC “completed a circle” as she stated that began as a child. She recalled that “growing up, my family were friends with the longtime director of THC, the late Mr. Herbert Harper. My parents- along with Mr. Harper and fellow historians- met monthly in their homes to share their passion of history. I went with my parents to some of these meetings, as well as to historic sites that would provide the backdrop for annual picnics that took place at Historic Sam Davis and Traveler’s Rest, to name a few places. These were historic sites that I would later learn more about through my role as the grants administrator. I came to appreciate the dedication of so many to the preservation of these sites, many of them led by volunteers. As an employee and

proud Tennessean, I also came to appreciate the commitment of our State Historic Preservation Office and the mission of THC, we are all stewards for a brief time.”

Executive Director Patrick McIntyre reflected that Vaughan “brought an amazing enthusiasm for her work. Her interest and knowledge of history led to strong working relationships with staff at our state historic sites, in our office, and with other grantees. She is also a gifted photographer. She has an artist’s eye and would bring wonderful floral arrangements that she had created from local plants and trees to brighten up our workplace.”

As Vaughan moves into retirement, she looks forward to more opportunities to pursue her many interests, while appreciating concluding her long tenure with the State at the Commission. “The first time I entered the grounds of Clover Bottom Mansion, I stopped to take in the beauty of the historic mansion and grounds, a jewel that had remained as the city built up around it. The friendships I made will be what I cherish and miss the most. I’m thankful for my time here.”

STAFF NEWS

Justin Heske re-joined the Tennessee Historical Commission in April as Historic Preservation Supervisor & Coordinator for the Federal Historic Preservation Tax Incentives Program. He replaces Holly Barnett, who was promoted to Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer and Assistance Director for Federal Programs. Prior to holding his current position, Heske served as the Historic Preservation Supervisor for the Tennessee Department of Transportation. He has a combined fourteen years of historic preservation experience in state and local government, including previous experiences



at the Tennessee Historical Commission, the Mississippi Department of Archives and History, and the City of Hattiesburg, MS. He holds Bachelor of Arts degrees in International Studies as well as Foreign Languages and Literature.

Laura Ragan joined the THC staff in April as our Grants Administrator. She is a native Nashvillian, but recently moved back to Tennessee after her husband retired



from his military service. Ragan brings an extensive background in accounting, having served as the Budgeting and Cash Manager for a Nursing Home Corporate office

and as an Accountant for Central Parking Systems in Nashville. More recently, Ragan served as an Information Systems Security Specialist for Air Mobility Command and US Transportation Command at Scott Air Force Base. She holds a bachelor’s degree in Business Administration from Belmont University focusing on Accounting and Information Systems Security (2001). Ragan is a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution, General Jethro Sumner Chapter and an associate member of the Captain William Edmiston Chapter. Currently, she and her husband own Ragan Gourmet Popcorn in Clarksville and in Southern Illinois. She enjoys her “Ragan Ranch” where she cares for the farm and celebrates life with parents, children, and grandchildren.

Caty Dirksen joined the Tennessee Historical Commission staff in July as the Tennessee Heritage Protection Act and Outreach Coordinator. A native of Franklin, Tennessee, she holds a Master of Arts in Public History from Northern Kentucky University and a Bachelor of Science in Secondary Education: History from the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga.

(continued on page 11)



PUBLICATIONS TO NOTE

By Linda T. Wynn, Assistant Director for State Programs & Publications Editor

Vanderbilt University Press, PMB 401813, 2301 Vanderbilt Place, Nashville, TN 37240-1813

To Care for the Sick and Bury the Dead: African American Lodges and Cemeteries in Tennessee *Slavery in Tennessee* by Leigh Ann Gardner is one of the first books that delves into African American lodges and cemeteries in Tennessee. Between 1865 and 1930, organizations such as Benevolent Orders, the Sons of Ham, Prince Hall Freemasons, and other such African American organizations provided a social safety net for members with numerous resources that range from sick benefits and assurance of a proper burial, opportunities for socialization and leadership, and the opportunity to work with local congregations and educational institutions to create better communities.

A native Nashvillian, Gardner started her career as an archivist. Later she earned a master's degree in Public History with an

emphasis on Historic Preservation. She worked at MTSU as a research coordinator and awards manager. Currently, she works as a Grants Manager in the Division of Allergy, Pulmonary, and Critical Care Medicine. Gardner gained an interest in the subject of this tome during her graduate days at Middle Tennessee State University. The relatively unexplored subject by historians. Some study fraternalism in general, while others study benevolent groups such as the Grand Fountain of the United Order of True Reformers, of focus on women's associations like the Order of the Eastern Star. After a cursory search of the literature, there is little to be found on African American lodge cemeteries, particularly in Tennessee. Notwithstanding, some work is being done on Prince Hall Order of the Eastern Star and the Women Dedicated to the African American Communal Experi-

ence in Tennessee.

Each of the three Grand Divisions in Tennessee contain African American lodge cemeteries, and these cemeteries are important resources in learning more about African American lodges, their members, and how African American fraternal groups continue to endure as community institutions into the twenty-first century. Gardner's *To Care for the Sick and Bury the Dead: African American Lodges and Cemeteries in Tennessee* is a must-have for genealogists, historians, and family members of the people buried in these cemeteries. **Cloth, \$ 28.95**

Another book published by Vanderbilt University Press is

The People's Plaza: Sixty-Two Day of Nonviolent Resistance by Justin Jones is a first-person account of hope, a statement of intent, and a blueprint for nonviolent resistance in the American South and elsewhere. From June 12, 2020, until the passage of the state law making the occupation a felony two months later, peaceful protesters set up camp at Nashville's Legislative Plaza and renamed it for Ida B. Wells, an African American journalist from Memphis, Tennessee, who served as editor of the *Memphis Free Speech*. The tornado of March 2020 decimated Nashvillians lives, and later COVID-19 altered the lives not only of Nashvillians and Tennesseans but the lives of Americans across the country. The killing of African Americans Ahmaud Arbery, Georgia; Breonna Taylor, Kentucky; and George Floyd, Minneapolis, by law enforcement officers. After the video showing killing of George Floyd went viral, Americans

of all hues marched and called for justice. Jones (a newly elected state representative), an alumnus of Fisk University and a graduate student at Vanderbilt Divinity School, whose place at the forefront of the protests brought him and the occupation to the attention of the Tennessee state troopers, state and US senators, and Governor Bill Lee. The outcome was two months of unity in the face of rampant abuse and standoff after standoff at the doorsteps of the people's house with those who claimed to represent them. With a foreword by the Rev. Dr. William J. Barber II, minister, social activist, and co-chair of the Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival, in this, his first book, Jones describes those two months of nonviolent resistance against a "police state that sought to dehumanize its citizens." As the Reverend Dr. Barber asserts in the foreword, Jones' memoir is "more than a snapshot of a grassroots struggle for justice. . .it

is also a window through which we can understand the spiritual strivings and understandable doubts of a generation." **Paper, \$19.99**

The third book published by Vanderbilt University Press is *The Sculpture of William Edmondson: Tombstones, Garden Ornaments, and Stonework* by Marin R. Sullivan. The limestone carvings of sculpturer William Edmondson came to the attention of the art world when Louise Dahl-Wolfe, a New York photographer with Harper's Bazaar saw his works while visiting Nashville. She took photographs of Edmondson and his work and later showed them to the director of New York's Museum of Modern Art Alfred Barr. Impressed with Edmondson's sculptures, Barr arranged an exhibition of for Edmondson in 1937. The museum mounted ten of Edmondson's sculptures, making Edmondson the first African



American artist to have a solo exhibition at the Museum of Modern Art. Prior to the New York exhibit, the limestone carvings of William Edmondson were virtually unknown beyond his South Nashville neighborhood. In 2020, a historical marker was placed at the William Edmonson Homesite and Studio in recognition of the place where Edmondson created his works of art. Between 1948 and 1964, Edmondson's stone carvings were exhibited in Nashville at the Spring Festival of Arts at Fisk University, the Nashville Artist Guild, Peabody College for Teachers, and Tennessee Arts Center at Cheekwood. An exhibition of Edmondson's work did not appear in Tennessee, until 1981, when the Tennessee State Museum exhibited *William Edmondson: A Retrospective*. Sullivan's *The Sculpture of William Edmonson: Tombstones, Garden Ornaments, and Stonework* is a compilation of seven essays by recognized contributors and scholars. Organized by curator-at-large Marin R. Sullivan, the Cheekwood exhibition is the first large-scale examination in over twenty years. Sullivan is a Chicago-based art historian and curator-at-large at the Cheekwood Estate and Gardens and author of *Sculptural Materiality in the Age of Conceptualism and Alloys: American Sculpture and Architecture at Midcentury*. While the Cheekwood exhibit revisits Edmondson's work within the framework of his artistic discovery by white patrons in the 1930s, his work's formal resonance with primitivism and direct carving techniques, and his place in the tradition of African American "outside" art, this exhibition seeks to reevaluate his sculpture on its own terms as a part of a comprehensive practice that included the creation of commercial objects rather than strictly fine art. Proclaimed by the *New York Times* as **one of the greatest stone carvers of Modernism,** *The Sculpture of William Edmondson: Tombstones, Garden Ornaments and Stonework* recognizes the importance of his work. Paper, \$9.95.

THIRTEEN NEW STATE HISTORICAL MARKERS

*At its meeting on June 17, 2022, the Tennessee Historical Commission approved thirteen historical markers: **Anderson County Poor Farm**, Anderson County; **Flatwood Community & Moore Farm**, Benton County; **Colonel John Purdy**, Chester County; **Booker T. Motel**, Gibson County; **Dan Call Farm**, Moore County; **Cherry Grove Missionary Baptist Church**, and **Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church**, Rutherford County; **Pvt. W. G. Harding DaVault**, Rhea County; **Wooten Fallout Shelter**, Shelby County; **Original Church of God/L. M. Swanson's Nursing Home**, Sumner County; **Captain William Alexander**, Trousdale County; **Haston Station**, Van Buren County; and **Camp Bell**, Wilson 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.*

STAFF NEWS

(continued from page 9)



Prior to her arrival at the Historical Commission, she worked at Belmont Mansion and Vanderbilt University's Jean and Alexander Heard Library.

Dirksen has a passion for house museums, with her favorite being Van Cortlandt House in the Bronx.



Published by the
TENNESSEE HISTORICAL
COMMISSION

2941 Lebanon Pike
Nashville, Tennessee 37243-0442

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of State Programs

Public Comment Solicited

As the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), the Tennessee Historical Commission is soliciting public comment and advice on its administration of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). Especially, we are seeking input on such matters as geographic areas or classes of properties which may be a priority for survey and/or registration efforts, criteria and priorities which should be established for Historic Preservation Fund (HPF) grants, and ways and means through which local efforts at preservation of historic properties can be most effectively assisted. The HPF is the federal fund appropriated under the authority of the NHPA to assist states in carrying out the purposes of the NHPA. Comments and advice on other areas and issues of a more general nature are also encouraged. Activities carried out by SHPO under the mandate of the NHPA include efforts to survey and inventory historic properties across the state and to nominate the most significant of them 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; administering the federal historic tax credit program; awarding and administering HPF grants; and providing technical assistance and advice to local governments which are attempting to establish local programs and ordinances to protect historic properties. The comments received will be used to structure the SHPO's annual application to the National Park Service for these funds. 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 accepted throughout the year and should be addressed to Holly Barnett, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, 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, 2,400 copies promulgated at a cost of \$1.16 per copy, 1/27/22.



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ON THE COVER: the Ernest C. Withers House located in Memphis, TN. Photograph by Andrew Rome Withers, Photograph Journalist and Author at the Ernest C. Withers Sr. Historical Photograph Foundation, September 8, 2022.