



THE COURIER

TENNESSEE HISTORICAL COMMISSION, NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

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In This Issue: 30 Years at Clover Bottom, Future Arboretum at THC Offices,
Seven Properties Added to the National Register

THC CELEBRATES 30 YEARS AT CLOVER BOTTOM

By Rebecca Schmitt, National Register Coordinator

On October 23, 2024, the Tennessee Historical Commission will celebrate its 30th anniversary of moving to Clover Bottom in Donelson. As one of the oldest farms in Davidson County, Clover Bottom has been a witness to some of Tennessee's most important historical developments, including the establishment of the state's major agricultural economy in the late 18th and early 19th centuries, the Civil War and the emancipation of enslaved people at its conclusion, the development of suburbs, the establishment of government institutions providing crucial services to Tennesseans of all walks of life, and the rise of historic preservation as a tool of saving places that matter.

History of Clover Bottom

The area known as Clover Bottom was so-named by John Donelson in 1780 for the white clover growing in the bottom land along the Stones River. In 1797, Revolutionary War veteran John Hoggatt purchased 360 acres. Since Clover Bottom's establishment, its success as a farm was dependent on the labor of enslaved people of African descent. Census records note thirteen enslaved people at Clover Bottom during its first year, which increased to more than sixty by 1850.

In 1847, ownership passed to Dr. James W. Hoggatt who, with his wife Mary Ann Hoggatt, were responsible for the farm's major growth and expansion. By the time of the Civil War, Clover Bottom farm contained approximately 1,500 acres.

Many of the buildings still standing at Clover Bottom were built during the Hoggatt's tenure, including Clover Bottom Mansion. The mansion was originally constructed in 1853 in the Greek Revival style. In February 1859, the mansion burned, leaving only the masonry exterior walls and chimneys. The process of rebuilding began immediately with hired craftsmen and carpenters from Nashville. Rather than the Greek Revival-style portico supported by large columns of their previous house (the remnants of which still remain in the front lawn), their new house was constructed in the Italianate style, with an ornate portico with detailed moldings and brackets. A side addition was built soon after, bringing the mansion to its present form.

The 1850s also brought changes to the enslaved population, much of which was recorded by John McCline, who was born into slavery at Clover Bottom. Published in 1998 as *Slavery in the Clover Bottoms: John McCline's Narrative of his Life During Slavery and the Civil War*, McCline's memoir provides rare and important details about life for enslaved Black people in Davidson County. McCline described all aspects of enslaved life, from work growing diverse crops, to social life. Around 1858, a



1994 Dedication of the Historic Clover Bottom Mansion.

harsh new overseer had wood-frame dwellings built in two rows, one near the rear of the mansion and the other near the fields. Two of those new dwellings remain at Clover Bottom, one of which still retains its original overall appearance.

During the Civil War, Clover Bottom's inhabitants witnessed the activities of both Confederate and Union forces. Early during the war, McCline remembered watching Confederate troops marching down Lebanon Pike to Nashville. However, by 1862, Union forces arrived in the area and occupied Nashville. A group of a few thousand soldiers established a camp near the mansion, and Union Generals Crittenden and Morgan briefly stayed at Clover Bottom. In December 1862, then ten-year-old John McCline seized his chance to escape slavery and



joined the Union army as they passed the mansion on Lebanon Pike. McCline served as a teamster and went on to participate in campaigns at Murfreesboro, Lookout Mountain, and into Georgia as part of General Sherman's march through Georgia and the Carolinas.

Following Dr. Hoggatt's death in 1863, Mary Ann Hoggatt took over management of the farm. Many of the formerly enslaved people left Clover Bottom but many remained, some taking on the last name of Hoggatt (alternatively spelled Hockett) per custom of the time. Many became tenant farmers or waged labor on the farm. For instance, Sam and Katie Washington worked as chauffeur and laundress, respectively, while Edward Hill served as a domestic servant within the mansion for \$15 per month.

Following Mary Ann Hoggatt's death in 1887, ownership of the farm passed to Andrew Price. A native of Louisiana, Price and his wife Anna "Nan" Margaret Gay initially used Clover Bottom as a summer home. Over the next several years, Price transformed Clover Bottom into a premier Thoroughbred breeding establishment.



Clover Bottom, January 7, 1898.

In 1906, state legislation prohibiting betting caused the horse race industry to decline. At the same time, Andrew Price's health decline led the family to sell many of the horses. In 1909 Price died of Bright's disease (now called nephritis, or chronic inflammation of the kidneys). After his death, Anna Price took over management of the farm until selling the property to brothers Arthur Fuqua and Robert D. Stanford in 1918 for \$220,000.

Natives of Hartsville, TN, the Stanford brothers had made their success in the wholesale furniture business in Oklahoma City.

When World War I negatively affected their business, they decided to return to Tennessee and purchased Clover Bottom farm. Over the next few decades, Robert Stanford subdivided his portion of the farm and developed some of Donelson's first suburban neighborhoods, including Millionaire's Row on Lebanon Pike and the National Register-listed Bluefields neighborhood.

Arthur Stanford would make significant changes to the agricultural character of Clover Bottom. Stanford converted the farm into a large dairy operation. He would construct a larger modern dairy barn to take care of approximately 250 Jersey and Guernsey cows. Bottom lands near the Stones River continued to be used to grow corn and silage. Stanford attempted to create his own grain brand and constructed a feed mill and silo to facilitate storage, production, and sale but the venture proved too great.

Other important changes were improvements to worker housing, including a campaign to build new tenant houses. One such tenant house still stands to the rear of Clover Bottom Mansion, near the railroad tracks. By the 1930s, there were seven separate families living at Clover Bottom, most of whom were white.

While Robert Stanford was the main land developer in the family, Arthur Stanford also contributed to the development of Donelson. In 1921, he sold 450 acres along Stewarts Ferry Pike to the State of Tennessee. The state established a school and residential home for people with intellectual or behavioral disabilities. Known initially as the State Training School and Home for Feeble-Minded Persons, the institution expanded over the years and was renamed Clover Bottom Hospital and School in 1961.

In 1949, the State of Tennessee purchased the remaining acres of Clover Bottom for \$150,000. In 1952, the State began construction on the Tennessee School for the Blind on the former location of the Hoggatts' garden and the Prices' horse track. Teachers and school administrators were housed in Clover Bottom mansion, which was subdivided into apartments.

The farm continued to operate but became part of the Clover Bottom Institutional Farm. Patients at Clover Bottom Hospital worked at the farm. The original intent of the arrangement was to provide vocational training for patients. However, few patients left as many people still saw institutionalization as the best way to help disabled people. Critics argued that the arrangement was peonage, or involuntary servitude to pay a debt.

By the 1960s, Clover Bottom Hospital had come under fire for its overcrowded conditions and reports of abuse. In 1972, four



former patients filed a class action suit to obtain back-wages and benefits. The case went all the way to the Tennessee Supreme Court, who ruled against them in 1978. However, the case led to major changes even before the ruling. In direct response, the state ended the practice of unpaid labor at mental institutions. Meanwhile, other lawsuits led to the guarantee of rights and treatment. The combination of these lawsuits, negative press and legislative attentions, and changing philosophies in the mental health field resulted in a move towards deinstitutionalization and focus on educational programs and treatment. Accordingly, the hospital's name changed to Clover Bottom Developmental Center in 1973 to reflect the mission change.

Preservation of Clover Bottom

Following the tumultuous events of state ownership in the 1960s and mid-1970s, Clover Bottom was vacated. The mansion and its outbuildings began to deteriorate. Vegetation quickly became overgrown, and vandals regularly broke in and destroyed architectural features.

Alarmed by the property's condition, local people lobbied the State of Tennessee to save the mansion. The Tennessee Historical Commission successfully listed the mansion in the National Register of Historic Places in 1975. Donelson residents created the Historic Clover Bottom Association (later the Donelson-Hermitage chapter of the Association for the Preservation of Tennessee Antiquities) and actively promoted fundraising drives.

In 1992, the State of Tennessee committed to saving the property. Over the next two years, approximately \$1.3 million was used to rehabilitate the mansion to serve as the offices of the Tennessee Historical Commission. The exterior was restored to its early appearance and modern amenities were added at the rear in the enclosed back porch. Since its dedication in October 1994, Clover Bottom has continued to house THC staff, serve researchers, and provide free meeting spaces for government agencies and non-profit organizations. The grounds are used for outdoor recreation, and photographers often use the outbuildings as backdrops to document everything from proms and engagements to family photos.

The THC and State of Tennessee have continued to preserve Clover Bottom's larger property. The state provided funding to restore several outbuildings in 2015. Restored buildings included the ca. 1850 carriage house, the ca. 1858 slave/tenant cabins, the ca. 1920 chicken coop, the ca. 1895 horse stable, and the ca.

1920 privy. More recently, Boy Scouts whitewashed one of the cabins to ensure its continued preservation.

The THC has also continued to explore Clover Bottom's history. Former THC survey coordinator, Steve Rogers, provided extensive assistance on research for the publication of John McCline's memoir and published pieces about the farm's history in the Tennessee Historical Quarterly.

In 2015, the THC awarded a Historic Preservation Fund grant to MTSU to conduct an archaeological field school, which



Clover Bottom central hallway ca. 1917

located foundations that are believed to have been associated with demolished cabins for the enslaved. The students also conducted research to compile information about African Americans at Clover Bottom during the era of enslavement as well as post-emancipation. The MTSU investigation built upon the groundwork laid by the Tennessee Division of Archaeology, which assisted with rehabilitation efforts in the early 1990s. The work of Rogers, MTSU, and the TDOA has provided crucial information to understand and interpret Clover Bottom's history, which led THC to comprehensively expand the National Register listing for Clover Bottom in 2019. Though the Nashville area continues to witness record development, the THC remains committed to utilizing and preserving Clover Bottom as not only a tangible piece of our past, but also as a vital piece of Donelson's local community and culture.

View the digital version to read the full article.



CLOVER BOTTOM TO BECOME A CERTIFIED ARBORETUM

By Jennifer Smith, Horticulturist and Certified Arborist with Metro Water Services, Stormwater Division

Tennessee is blessed with a tree canopy, in both rural and urban landscapes, that is made up of almost 200 different tree species, more than most other states! Spring greets us with the blooms of understory trees; favorites include dogwoods, redbuds, serviceberry, hawthorn, and native pears and plums. In the fall we are inspired by the colorful tapestry of leaves, with shades of reds, oranges, and purples. Evergreen trees such as magnolias, holly, cedar, and pine, highlight our winter landscape.

One tree that quickly comes to mind in our forests are the mighty oaks. With 20 native oaks in our state, it is no wonder they dominate from the flat, alluvial plains in West Tennessee to the Smoky Mountains in the east. Other large trees are the tulip poplar which is our state tree, hickories, beech, maples, and beautiful sycamores with their contrasting white bark.

The Clover Bottom Mansion sits on an approximately 42-acre preserve. Since 1994, it has housed the Tennessee Historical Commission office. Having once served as pasture, the gently rolling land is a destination for the community with its walking trail. It is a beautiful setting, but much of the trail is in full sun and can be hot in the summer.

This is where the Metro Nashville Tree Bank program enters the story. Tree Bank funds are dedicated to tree planting on government property with the goal of increasing Nashville's overall tree canopy. The program is operated by the Stormwater Division of Nashville's Metro Water Services. Seeing the opportunity for this planting to become an arboretum, Horticulturist Jennifer Smith with Stormwater met with the Historical Commission staff, who were all in favor of the tree planting and the future educational component.

How does a group of trees become an arboretum?

Since 1991, the Tennessee Urban Forestry Council (TUFC) has been a voice for our urban trees. The Council strives to expand the public's awareness of the role trees and forests play in the urban environment by hosting a Certified Arboretum program. Their work complements the Tennessee Department of Agriculture, Division of Forestry's work by bringing together urban foresters,



New trees planted at Clover Bottom this year.

arborists, community leaders, educators, gardeners, landscape designers and architects, and concerned citizens.

There are four arboretum certification levels and the goal for Clover Bottom is to reach a Level 2 status, with over 60 different tree species on the property. During the past planting season, 20 species of trees were planted through Metro Nashville's Tree Bank, with another planting happening in the upcoming planting season. Afterwards, the trees will be labeled and the TUFC's Arboretum Certification Application will be submitted. A TUFC committee will make a site visit as part of the process to becoming a certified arboretum.

Clover Bottom farm has had many uses in its near 250-year history, its tree legacy is the next. Future generations will enjoy walking in the shade of the tree trail while learning about a diverse tree canopy and the differences trees are making in the community



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES NEWS

By J. Ethan Holden, National Register Coordinator

Seven Tennessee Properties Added to 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:

Cross-Boggs Place

Listed May 06, 2024

(Clinton - Anderson County)

The Cross—Boggs Place was listed in the National Register for its local architectural significance. Joseph Black Cross built the house circa 1860 in the small community of Dorsett in East Tennessee. The Cross—Boggs Place was initially constructed as an I-House, a well-known vernacular style characterized by its two-story height, one-room depth, three-to-five symmetrical façade openings, central hall plan, and optional front porch. It was later renovated in the Folk Victorian style in 1900 before it gained its current Classical Revival appearance in 1930. The two-story flat roof porch with columns, exterior end chimneys, and ornate door and window surrounds mark the house as a locally important example of the Classical Revival type. Joseph's daughter, Hanna Mae Cross, and her husband, M.E. "Ted" Boggs, bought out the remainder of the Cross siblings in the early twentieth century to become the sole owners of the property. The house remained in the Boggs family until 1945, after which it changed hands until the current owner, Bonnie Shoemaker,



Photograph courtesy of Don Hedden, August 2023

purchased the home in 1993. The East Tennessee Development District recognized her preservation efforts and successful National Register listing with an award presented at the September 2024 District Celebration ceremony.

Webb Public School

Listed May 10, 2024

(McKenzie - Carroll & Weakley County)

Located in the city of McKenzie in Carroll and Weakley Counties, the Webb Public School was listed in the National Register for its



Photograph courtesy of Jessica Baker, March 2023.

educational significance. The first school for African American children in McKenzie was organized in a local church building in 1898. The introduction of the public school system soon after led to the establishment of the first official school for African American students, the Booker T. Washington School. Attendance rapidly outgrew the Washington School's capacity, which led to the construction of multiple schools during the early-twentieth century, including a four-room Rosenwald School and an expansion of the McTyeire College campus in McKenzie. The nominated Webb Public School was built in 1958. Named after John L. Webb for his generous financial contributions and support of expansion drives, the Webb Public School was the only public high school available to African American children in both counties. The school offered courses in Social Studies, Math, Agriculture, and Language. Extracurricular activities like football, basketball, band, and glee clubs offered students enrichment opportunities beyond academics. Webb Public School closed in 1966 following desegregation. In 1969, alumni of the school joined together to form the Webb Alumni Association. The Association now owns the building and continues to use the property as a center for education and community service in McKenzie.



The Civil Rights Movement in Nashville, Tennessee, 1942-1969
Listed August 02, 2024
(Multiple Property Documentation Form)

The Civil Rights Movement in Nashville, Tennessee, 1942-1969 Multiple Property Documentation Form was approved by the National Park Service on August 2, 2024. The MPDF documents the important history of the Civil Rights Movement in Nashville between 1942-1969 and identifies the many different types of cultural resources that are associated with this important movement. The push for Civil Rights in Nashville began following the conclusion of the Civil War and gained momentum during the World War II era. The Southern Conference for Human Welfare established their headquarters in Nashville in the 1940s. Around the same time, Fisk University also launched the Race Relations Institute, an innovative program that sponsored race relations workshops. These early events set the stage for the nonviolent, direct action training



Photograph courtesy of The Tennessean, 1960

workshops in the 1950s, which in turn transformed Nashville into the center for young civil rights activists in the State. The successful desegregation of Nashville’s public accommodations between 1958 and 1964 are testament to the dedication and planning of the movement members. The MPDF identifies three property types associated with the movement, including

strategy centers, conflict centers, and properties associated with prominent persons. Thanks to the thorough research and survey present in the MPDF, Civil Rights-related resources in Nashville can be more easily listed in the National Register in the future. Register listing with an award presented at the September 2024 District Celebration ceremony.

Clark Memorial Methodist Church Complex
Listed August 02, 2024
(Nashville - Davidson County)

The Clark Memorial Methodist Complex in Nashville, Davidson County was listed in the National Register under “The Civil Rights Movement in Nashville, Tennessee, 1942-1969” National Register Multiple Property Documentation Form for its important role in the Civil Rights Movement. The complex consists of the 1945 sanctuary, 1956 parsonage, 1941 Walker House, and several outbuildings. From 1945-1964, the Clark complex hosted training workshops, community meetings, conferences, fundraisers, and other important events that fueled the Nashville Civil Rights Movement. The complex is also associated with legendary Civil Rights leader James M. Lawson, Jr. and physician Dr. Charles J. Walker. Lawson led nonviolent, direct-action training

workshops at the Clark complex from 1958 to 1959. Considered to be one of the most important contributing factors to the Nashville Civil Right Movement’s success, Lawson’s workshops prepared both students and young people for the protests and demonstrations that made 1960 the most active protest year in the history of the Nashville movement. Dr. Walker, a minister and local leader within the Nashville movement, also lived on the Clark Campus. It is this confluence of activism, leadership, and training that made the Clark complex the “cradle” of the Nashville Civil Rights Movement.



Photograph courtesy of Sydney Schoof, 2023.

First Community Church
Listed August 02, 2024
(Nashville - Davidson County)

First Community Church in Nashville, Davidson County was also listed in the National Register under “The Civil Rights Movement in Nashville, Tennessee, 1942-1969” National Register Multiple Property Documentation Form for its role in the Civil Rights Movement. The First Community Church building was constructed in 1960 around an earlier building on the same property. From 1957-1969, First Community Church served as a strategy center for the Nashville Civil Rights movement and sponsored other important community events, such as voter registration drives and seminars on race relations. The church is also significant for its association with Reverend Cordy Tindell (C.T.) Vivian, who pastored the church from 1957-1961. Rev. Vivian is recognized as one of the three major pastors who was responsible for the success of the Nashville Civil Rights Movement. The Reverend organized and



participated in the many workshops and trainings that prepared activists for the rigors and challenges the Civil Rights Movement faced in Nashville. He also oversaw the construction of a modern church building that reflected the property's important role as both a house of worship and instrument of social justice. The church and congregation continued to be heavily involved with the Civil Rights Movement following Rev. Vivian's departure, with

one member, Johnetta Hayes, serving as the first female president of the Nashville branch of the NAACP from 1959-1962. Strategy centers like the First Community Church were critical components of the Nashville Civil Rights movement.



Photograph courtesy of Claudette Stager and Caroline Eller, November 2023.



Photograph courtesy of Kelsey Lamkin, December 2019.

Ell Persons Lynching Site
Listed August 07, 2024
 (Memphis - Shelby County)

Located on the outskirts of Memphis, the Ell Persons Lynching Site was listed at the state and local levels of significance for its association with the lynching of Ell Persons on May 22, 1917. Ell Persons was a local African American man and

woodcutter accused of murdering a sixteen-year-old white girl, Antoinette Rappel. Police began their investigation into Rappel's murder after her body was found on May 2, 1917. Though all the evidence suggested a white assailant, the Memphis sheriff insisted that she was murdered by an African American worker. Ell Persons was taken into police custody as a suspect when his employer E.J. Brooks reported that Persons acted suspiciously. Persons was interrogated for hours, during which time he was beaten by officers until they reportedly obtained a forced confession. A white mob removed Persons from prison and, in front of approximately 5,000 men, women, and children, burned Persons alive before decapitating his body. His head and foot were later tossed into a group of African American men on Beale

Street as a warning. Person's lynching sparked national outrage. The Boston branch of the Equal Rights League sent a telegram to President Woodrow Wilson about the lynching, urging him to prevent further instances from happening. In July 1917, approximately 10,000 African Americans marched in New York City to protest the lynching, and several others, in what became known as The Silent Protest Parade. Back in Memphis, African Americans organized to form the Memphis branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), which played a key role in the Civil Rights movement. The Ell Persons Lynching Site today remains undeveloped and is a potent reminder of the racial terror inflicted on African Americans and the movement for change it sparked.

Cedar Heights Farmhouse
Listed May 10, 2024
 (Mt. Juliet - Wilson County)

The Cedar Heights Farmhouse was listed for its local architectural significance as a good example of the Folk Victorian style. The Farmhouse was constructed in 1891 on land that belonged to the Williamson family, one of the wealthiest and most influential families in the then small town of Mt. Juliet. The Folk Victorian style was popular across the nation from roughly 1870-1910. The rise of the railroad system, pre-milled lumber, and affordable wood decorative elements contributed to its popularity. Important characteristics of the Folk Victorian style include spindle-work detailing, flat jigsaw cut trim, cornice line brackets, asymmetrical floor plans, and frequent ell-shaped

additions. The Cedar Heights Farmhouse exemplifies many of these details, while also boasting unique architectural features more common to the Queen Anne style. This includes its wraparound porch, two story height, oculus window, pediments

with rosette design, and intricate porch details. The interior also boasts the original staircase, decorative fireplace mantels, and wood door and window surrounds. The house was passed down through the family until the current owner was deeded



the property in 2017. Since then, he has worked to restore, protect, and preserve the house, ensuring that it remains a prominent landmark in the city.

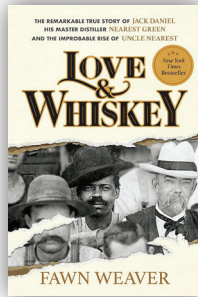
Photograph courtesy of Jeff Strickland, March 2023.



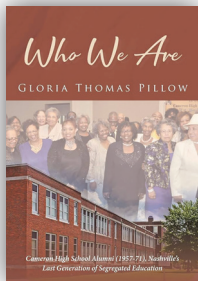
PUBLICATIONS TO NOTE

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

Melcher Media, Inc. published *Love & Whiskey: The Remarkable True Story of Jack Daniel, His Master Distiller Nearest Green, and the Improbable Rise of Uncle Nearest*. by Fawn Weaver. *Love and Whiskey's* account takes place in Lynchburg, Tennessee, and interlaces an exciting narrative of personal discovery, historical exploration, and the eye-opening revelation of a story eclipsed by time. Through wide-ranging research, personal interviews, and the unearthing of long-buried documents, Weaver illuminates not only the relationship that existed between Nearest Green and Jack Daniel, but also Daniel's resolute undertakings during his life to assure Green's legacy would not be overlooked. His profound regard for his teacher, mentor, and friend was reflected in Jack's commitment to guaranteeing that the accounts and accomplishments of Nearest Green's progenies, who continued the tradition of collaborating with Jack and his descendants, would not be forgotten. As Weaver, a *New York Times* bestselling author, Harvard-certified Corporate Director, and CEO of Uncle Nearest Inc., intermingles her present-day goal with the historical threads of Green and Daniel's lives, she not only pays due deference to their heritage but also directed the creation of Uncle Nearest Premium Whiskey. This endeavor has not only brought Nearest Green's name to the forefront of the whiskey industry, but has also set new records, symbolizing a step forward in recognizing and celebrating African American contributions to the spirit world. As Clay Risen, reporter with the *New York Times* noted, Fawn Weaver through *Love & Whiskey: The Remarkable True Story of Jack Daniel, His Master Distiller Nearest Green, and the Improbable Rise of Uncle Nearest* "didn't want to use Green to promote whiskey, rather, she wanted to use whiskey to promote Green—and the idea that enslaved Black people were also a part of the story." **Hardback \$28.00.**

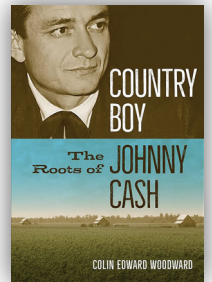


Page Publishing published Gloria Thomas Pillow's *Who We Are: Cameron High School Alumni (1957-71), Nashville's Last Generation of Segregated Education*. This work is a memoir—and a study—of African American youth, who were the last to receive their secondary education under the auspices of a segregated educational system. The work is a compilation of Cameron students from the classes of 1957 through 1971, composed of six chapters that investigate how Cameron students became who they are today. *Who We Are* also includes short essays written by former teachers who taught Cameron students from the same period. It thoughtfully informs the reader of the journey Cameron students traversed with an optimistic vision toward the

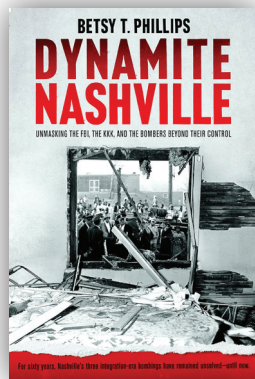


future. Framed by the *de jure* and *de facto* racial segregation of the period and enlightened by the historical, sociological, and psychological dynamics, but it is a narrative of determination and the possibility of opportunity. A former professor at Michigan State University and Cameron alum, Gloria Thomas Pillow, is a freelance editor who previously published articles in literary criticism. In addition to *Who We Are*, she is the author of *Motherlove in Shades of Black: The Maternal Psyche in the Novels of African American Women* that closely examines the mother figure in six works by African American women at various times in American history: Harriet Jacobs's *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl*, Pauline Hopkins's *Contending Forces*, Nella Larsen's *Passing*, Gwendolyn Brooks's *Maud Martha*, Alice Walker's *The Color Purple*, and Toni Morrison's *Beloved*. Obviously, *Who We Are: Cameron High School Alumni (1957-71), Nashville's Last Generation of Segregated Education* would be of interest to those who attended Nashville's Cameron High School, but it should also appeal to those who have an interest in the city's educational system during the era of segregation and its impact on those students who navigated the educational landscape. **Paperback \$19.95.**

The University of Arkansas Press published Archivist Collin Edward Woodward's *Country Boy: The Roots of Johnny Cash*. The novel focuses on how Cash's native state of Arkansas influenced his principles and fostered his musical ingenuity. This tome adroitly fuses biography, history, and music analysis to illustrate how the life, experiences, and work of "the man in black" was informed by his natal state. *Country Boy: The Roots of Johnny Cash* joins such biographical titles as *Johnny Cash: The Biography* by Michael Streissguth; *Citizen Cash: The Political Life and Times of Johnny Cash* by Michael Stewart Foley; *Johnny Cash: The Life and Legacy of the Man in Black* by Alan Light; and *Johnny Cash: The Life* by Robert Hilburn, among others. Cash recorded many of his classic songs at Memphis' Sun Records and because he was among Nashville's country music royalty, it causes individuals to connect him to Tennessee. However, biographers have asserted that some of his best songs—such as *Pickin' Time*, *Big River*, and *Five Feet High and Rising* — came out of his experiences in the cotton fields of northeastern Arkansas. Drawing upon Cash's songs and writings, as well as the accounts of family, musicians, and chroniclers, the author, who earned his Ph.D. in history from Louisiana State University, and the host of the American Rambler history and pop-culture podcast, reveals how the profound sincerity and empathy so central to Cash's music depended on his maintaining a connection of his native Arkansas. **Paperback, \$26.95**

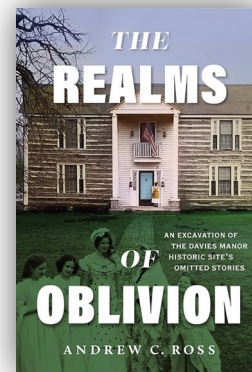


Third Man Books published Betsy T. Phillips' *Dynamite Nashville: Unmasking the FBI, the KKK, and the Bombers Beyond Their Control*. by Fawn Weaver. *Love and Whiskey's* The author focuses on three Nashville bombings that took place on September 10, 1957; March 16, 1958; and April 19, 1960, all of which have yet to be solved. These unresolved bombings included Nashville's Hattie Cotton Elementary School, the Jewish Community Center, and the home of Civil Rights attorney and Nashville city council member, Z. Alexander Looby, which he and his wife managed to escape with their lives. These bombings took place as the nation moved toward a racially desegregated society or the dawning of the Modern Civil Rights Movement. As Phillips explains, just as a cadre of activists like John Lewis, James Lawson, Diane Nash, C.T. Vivian, and others began to expressly question the *de facto* or *de jure* system of racial segregation, the "Athens of the South" harbored a plexus of racial terrorists. Phillips asserts that well-connected individuals supported the activities of poor racists without being implicated. The differing agendas of local law enforcement and the FBI allowed the bombers to escape prosecution until decades later, if at all. Not only does the author focus on Nashville's unresolved early Civil Rights terror campaigns, but she also ties them to bombings that took place in Miami and Jacksonville, Florida; Charlotte and Gastonia, North Carolina; Atlanta, Georgia; and Birmingham, Alabama, between 1957 and 1963. Thereby, demonstrating how Nashville was the precursor to racial viciousness and violence. Phillips, a writer for the *Nashville Scene* and the *Washington Post*. In 2019, she was named Best Historian in the Best of Nashville edition of the *Nashville Scene*. A former board member of Historic Nashville



Inc., she resides in Whites Creek, Tennessee. Betsy T. Phillips' *Dynamite Nashville* has garnered attention from those interested in Nashville's civil rights narrative and from local officials who have vowed to investigate the unresolved bombings. **Paperback \$21.95.**

Vanderbilt University Press published *The Realms of Oblivion: An Excavation of the Davies Manor Historic Site's Omitted Stories* by Andrew C. Ross, a Memphis based writer and museum professional. The author has worked as the museum director of the Blues Foundation and as executive director for the Davies Manor Association. His tome, *The Realms of Oblivion* delves into the minutiae interwoven in reconciling competing narratives of history, channeled through historic Davies Manor, located near Memphis, Tennessee. Like many southern plantations, Davies Manor was once a wealthy, enslaved-owning family's sprawling cotton plantation. Ross interrogates the forces of memorialization that often go unquestioned in the stories believed about individuals and communities, *The Realms of Oblivion* presents the reader with an instructive and fascinating bottom-up history—of the Davies family, African Americans they enslaved and oppressed across generations, and of Memphis and Shelby County. The author challenges the reader to consider what sustains the survival of that historical narrative to the present. *The Realms of Oblivion: An Excavation of the Davies Manor Historic Site's Omitted Stories* employs microhistories to explore race and class in the South and should be of interest to those who want to comprehend the historical narrative of the historic Davies Manor. **Paperback \$27.95.**



TENNESSEE HISTORICAL COMMISSION CALENDAR OF EVENTS

FALL
2024

Celebrate Fall with our State Historic Sites, check out their events on our website's calendar!

- **Death Comes to Sabine Hill at Sabine Hill State Historic Site**
October 18-19, 2024 from 6:00 pm to 9:30 pm EDT
- **Haunts at the Font at Cragfont State Historic Site**
October 19, 2024 from 6:00 pm to 10:30 pm CDT
- **8th Annual Legacy Event at the Clement Railroad Hotel Museum at Hotel Halbrook State Historic Site**
October 24, 2023 from 5:30 pm to 9:00 pm CDT



TENNESSEE HISTORIC CEMETERY MAP AND REGISTER: ONE YEAR ANNIVERSARY

by Graham Perry, Historic Cemetery Preservation Specialist

This past year, the Tennessee Historical Commission released the Tennessee Historic Cemetery Map and Register. In the year of its release, locations of more than 25,500 cemeteries can be viewed on the map itself with info for more than 33,000 known cemeteries currently recorded in the Cemetery database. The map features hundreds more cemetery points, as staff is in the process of pinning every unrecorded cemetery found on USGS maps as well. THC is pleased to offer this research tool to not only historians and genealogist, but to purchasers of property, developers, and government entities needing to research cemetery locations as well.

To date, 31 cemeteries have been listed in the Tennessee Historic Cemetery Register, further expanding our knowledge of Tennessee's historic cemeteries. One newly listed cemetery is the Woods-Handly cemetery located in Belvedere. Dating back to 1835, there are a total of 32 graves in the cemetery, with 25 burials occurring in the 19th century. Notable burials include Revolutionary War Captain Samuel Handly, who was additionally a member of the Tennessee Constitutional Convention. Descendant, Herb Handly and his wife Phyllis, have worked to clean up the cemetery and have placed a Tennessee Historic Cemetery Register marker on site.



Herb and Phyllis Handly at the Woods-Handly cemetery with THC Historic Cemetery Register sign.

CEMETERIES RECENTLY ADDED TO THE TENNESSEE HISTORIC CEMETERY REGISTER

- **Castleman Cemetery**, Davidson County. Listed February 28, 2024
- **Old Gibson Primitive Baptist Church Cemetery**, Gibson County. Listed March 1, 2024.
- **Wear Cemetery**, Loudon County. Listed March 1, 2024.
- **Sanders Cemetery**, McNairy County. Listed April 5, 2024.
- **McDonald Cemetery**, Hamilton County. Listed April 5, 2024.
- **Simmerell Cemetery**, White County. Listed April 22, 2024.
- **B.F. Collinsworth**, Crockett County. Listed May 7, 2024.
- **Shelton-Haire Cemetery**, Greene County. Listed June 7, 2024.
- **Wood Family Cemetery**, Hardin County. Listed June 7, 2024
- **Thompson-Collinsworth Cemetery**, Davidson County. Listed June 7, 2024.
- **Abram Mason Cemetery**, Crockett County. Listed June 24, 2024.
- **Cearley Cemetery**, Hardeman County. Listed July 3, 2024.
- **Nelson Cemetery**, Lawrence County. Listed July 25, 2024.
- **Copeland-Garrett Cemetery**, Overton County. Listed July 31, 2024.
- **Gower Cemetery**, Davidson County. Listed August 15, 2024.



COMMISSION MEMBER NEWS

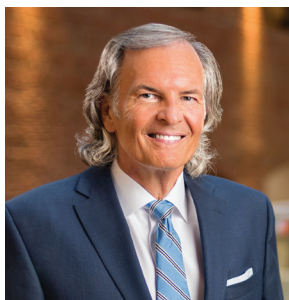
As of July 1, 2024, the board of the Tennessee Historical Commission has been reconstituted. The new board consists of 20 members, including five appointed by the Governor, five by the Lt. Governor, and five by the Speaker of the House, and will serve staggered terms. The following members are new to the Tennessee Historical Commission board, for a complete list of members please visit our website.

Victor Ashe was appointed by Lt. Governor McNally on July 19, 2024. Ashe has a long history of public service going back to 1968 when he was elected State Representative from Knox County for 3 terms then elected to the state senate in 1975 where he served 9 years. He served as executive director of the Americans Outdoors Commission from 1985 to 1987. He was then elected Mayor Knoxville in 1987 where he served 16 years becoming the longest serving Mayor in Knoxville history. In 2004 he was nominated by President George W Bush to be Ambassador to Poland and confirmed by the US Senate, where he served 5 years, becoming the longest serving American Ambassador to Poland. President Barak Obama appointed Ashe to the Broadcasting Board of Governors in 2010 and confirmed by the US Senate. Ashe's degree from Yale University in 1967 is in American History and he has a Law degree from the University of Tennessee College of Law in 1974. Ashe is married to the former Joan Plumlee, and they have two children: J. Victor and Martha.



Warren Dockter, Ph.D. was appointed by House Speaker Sexton on July 19, 2024. Dockter grew up in Grainger County and worked with his family's sign company in Blount County. He then attended the University of Tennessee – Knoxville to earn his undergraduate degree in history and political science. He went on to receive his Masters and Ph.D. from the University of Nottingham in England; was awarded a fellowship at University of Cambridge, and has been a historian at Aberystwyth University in Wales. Dockter is the President and CEO of the East Tennessee Historical Society, where he brings an extensive knowledge & passion for history, experience in public engagement, management and fund raising in the non-profit sector including work with the International Churchill Society, British Institute of Ankara and Aberystwyth University.

Timothy B. Smith, Ph.D. was appointed by House Speaker Sexton on August 13, 2024. Smith is a veteran of the National Park Service and currently teaches history at the University of Tennessee at Martin. In addition to numerous articles and essays, he is the author, editor, or co-editor of more than twenty books with several university and commercial presses. His books have won numerous book awards, his trilogy on the American Civil War's Tennessee River campaign (Forts Henry and Donelson, Shiloh, and Corinth) winning a total of nine book awards. He has recently finished a five-volume study of the Vicksburg Campaign for the University Press of Kansas and a new study of Albert Sidney Johnston for LSU Press.



James D. Kay Jr. was appointed by Governor Lee on July 12, 2024. He is a founder and partner at the law firm Kay Griffin and Evans, PLLC. Kay is a graduate of Auburn University and received his law degree from Washington & Lee University. A native of Nashville, Kay is a well-known Nashville historian, lecturer, collector, and preservationist. Kay has served on the Battle of Nashville Trust, Inc. board since 2004, serving as president from 2007-2010 and 2019-2021.



Hobart Akin is an Ex Officio member, serving as the Commissioner of Environment and Conservation's representative. Akin grew up in Blount County, Tennessee, exploring the coves and mountaintops of East Tennessee. He attended the University of Tennessee at Knoxville, graduating in 2006 with a degree in Classics. In 2008, Akin began his career with Tennessee State Parks as a Seasonal Interpretive Ranger at Old Stone Fort State Archaeological Park in Manchester. In 2010, he joined the park's full-time staff as a park ranger, leading tours and interpretive programs at the site and providing emergency response. In 2012, he moved to Fort Loudoun State Historic Area in Vonore, where he worked with the living history program. While at the park, Akin helped develop several award-winning interpretive programs and exhibits. He developed several award-winning interpretive programs, such as a partnership with Skype in the Classroom, to bring the story of Fort Loudoun to a global audience. In 2016, he received a master's degree in public history with an emphasis in Cultural Resource Management from Middle Tennessee State University. In his current role, Akin is Tennessee State Parks' Planning and Exhibits Manager and State Parks Historian. He regularly works with parks across the state to develop park exhibits and perform interpretive programming. He is currently pursuing a doctorate in the public history program at Middle Tennessee State University.



Ben Silverman is an Ex Officio member, serving as the Governor's representative. He is the Director of Appointments for Governor Lee's Office of Boards and Commissions. Originally from Goodlettsville, TN, Silverman graduated from the University of Alabama with degrees in English and Political Science before joining the Lee Administration as Personal Aide to the Governor in 2020. After serving through the Governor's reelection campaign and visiting every county in the state, he became Director of Appointments in January 2023.

HISTORICAL MARKERS

At its meeting on June 21, 2024, the Tennessee Historical Commission approved twelve historical markers: *James S. Gilliland House*, Bedford County; *The Belcourt Theatre*, Davidson County; *Bruce High School, Peony Ridge*, Dyer County; *Russell Leroy Pickett*, Hamilton County; *Sycamore Landing*, Humphreys County; *Hiram Beene Moore*, M. D., Marion County; *South Fulton Rosenwald School*; Obion County; *Buttram Cemetery, Dr. John R. Neal, Jr.*, and *George Rappleyea*, Rhea County; and *Honoring The Kingston Coal Ash Cleanup Workers*, Roane 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.



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Linda T. Wynn, Assistant Director
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 331953, 4,897 copies promulgated at a cost of \$1.07 per copy, 10/2/24.



STAFF NEWS

Barbara Grissom joined the staff in August 2024 as the Administrative Secretary. A native of Nashville, Grissom has a B.S. in Psychology from Tennessee State University and an A.A.S. in Medical Office Administration from Nashville State Community College. Prior to joining THC, she worked at Meharry Medical College for the past 23 years in the school of medicine as an Executive Associate and an Administrative Assistant. Grissom also worked in the archives department as a Health Information Analyst II.



Stevie Malenowski joined the staff in September 2024 as the Technical Preservation Coordinator for the western half of the state. Malenowski earned his undergraduate degree from Ithaca College in New York, and he recently received his M.A. in Public History from the University of South Carolina. He served as Preservation Staff for the Adirondack Architectural Heritage where he conducted preservation work on multiple National Historic Landmark structures and assisted with a \$900,000 Save America's Treasures preservation grant. During his master's program, Malenowski served as Curatorial Assistant for a multi-disciplinary project at USC's McKissick Museum, where he conducted oral history interviews, researched, wrote exhibits, and digitized materials related to the South Carolina forestry and furniture industries.



Digital Version of the State Historic Sites Brochure Released
Travel through Tennessee history with this interactive guide to our State Historic Sites Program.



TWO TENNESSEE WARS COMMISSION GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

The TWC is pleased to offer two unique grant fund opportunities to further Tennessee's military history. Visit our website to learn more about the grants and to apply!

- Civil War Sites Preservation Fund accepting applications August 12, 2024 through November 1, 2024
- Tennessee Wars Commission Grant Fund accepting applications September 2, 2024 through November 15, 2024.

CERTIFICATE OF MERIT AWARD APPLICATIONS NOW ACCEPTED

The Tennessee Historical Commission is accepting nominations for its 2025 Certificate of Merit Awards. Certificate of Merit awards are presented annually to individuals and groups that have made significant contributions to the study and preservation of Tennessee's heritage during the 12 months prior to the application deadline.

Applications can be found on the THC website and the deadline for submissions is December 31, 2024. Award winners are announced each May during National Preservation Month.



IN MEMORIAM

THC board member Ann Toplovich died on May 25th, 2024. Appointed as a member of the THC by Gov. Lee in 2021, Ms. Toplovich served for thirty years as the executive director of the Tennessee Historical Society, leading the effort to create the Tennessee Encyclopedia of History and Culture. Toplovich was a former staff member of the Tennessee Historical Commission, starting in 1979. She worked in both the Survey and National Register of Historic Places programs, as well as in the Tennessee Main Street Program. She also served for a time as the Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer and an assistant commissioner in the Tennessee Department of Conservation. Her contributions to furthering an understanding of and an appreciation for Tennessee's history are extraordinary. Ms. Toplovich also had an extensive background in archaeology and represented the Tennessee Historical Commission on the Governor's Archaeological Advisory Council at the time of her passing.



Ann Toplovich

IN MEMORIAM



Richard Tune (left), c. 1980 with former survey coordinator, Steve Rogers.

Former Tennessee Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer and longtime assistant director for Federal Programs Richard Tune died on September 6, 2024. Tune, who had a background in history and archaeology, started at the THC in 1976 as a Historical Projects Officer. He left in 2013, after spending his final two years post-retirement in a part-time capacity. Tune also served as interim executive director of the THC from 2006 to 2007, following Herbert Harper's retirement. Among his many accomplishments, Tune was instrumental in keeping the now iconic historic men's room at the Hermitage Hotel from being ripped out in the 1970s, and helping to save the original Alvin C. York Institute campus in Jamestown in 2008. Tune is remembered for his calm demeanor and exceptional knowledge, along with his dedication to Tennessee's historic places.

FEDERAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION FUND GRANTS

The Tennessee Historical Commission is pleased to offer grant fund opportunities to support the preservation of historic and archaeological resources in Tennessee. The next grant cycle for the Federal Historic Preservation Fund will be open December 1, 2024- February 1, 2025. Visit our website to learn more about the grant opportunity





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 TENNESSEE HISTORICAL COMMISSION
 2941 LEBANON PIKE
 NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37214

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Mr. Phil Hodge
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Dr. Carroll Van West
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ON THE COVER: Clover Bottom Mansion in Nashville, TN. Photograph courtesy of Theresa Montgomery, Chief State Photographer: Tennessee Photographic Services, November 1, 2022.

