



Tennessee Wars Commission Annual Report, February 2021



TENNESSEE WARS COMMISSION

The Tennessee General Assembly enacted legislation in April 1994, creating the Tennessee Wars Commission (TWC), as a part of the Tennessee Historical Commission (THC.) Since its establishment 25 years ago—and with only one staff position--the TWC has helped acquire and permanently protect over 7000 acres of historic properties, including Davis Bridge Battlefield in Hardeman County and Parkers Crossroads in Henderson County. To date, our grant funding has supported over one hundred different projects that preserve, protect, and interpret Tennessee's military heritage. These projects have included funding archaeological excavations that pinpointed the location of Union fortifications in Franklin, publishing *A Survey of Sites Related to the American Revolution and War of 1812 in Tennessee*, and the creation of *A Path Divided: Tennessee's Civil War Heritage Trail*, long-recognized as the most-requested brochure at Tennessee Welcome Centers.

The Tennessee Wars Commission helps coordinate planning efforts, preservation, and promotion of structures, buildings, sites, and battlefields of Tennessee from the era of the French and Indian War (1754-1763), American Revolutionary War (1775-1783), War of 1812 (1812-1815), Mexican-American War (1846-1848) through the American Civil War (1861-1865). The Tennessee Wars Commission is also charged with acquiring or providing funds for the acquisition of battlefields, cemeteries, Underground Railroad sites, and other properties associated with these conflicts.

The business of the Tennessee Wars Commission is conducted at the regular meetings of the Tennessee Historical Commission. This report shall serve as the Wars Commission's Report of Activities for the February 2021 Historical Commission meeting. One staff member, Nina Scall, works on behalf of the Wars Commission as Director of Programs, THC Executive Director, Patrick McIntyre, Jr., serves as the Executive Director of the TWC.

Grant Funding

The Wars Commission's mission is realized in part by funding grants for a variety of projects, through civic and governmental engagement, as well as interpretation and education efforts. The administration of two grant funds, the Wars Commission Grant Fund (WCGF) and the Civil War Sites Preservation Grant Fund (CWSPF), support this preservation plan, and help to preserve and promote the structures, buildings, sites, and battlefields of Tennessee.

Wars Commission Grant Fund

This fund is available for various projects within Tennessee's diverse communities relating to the above wars. Any individual, museum, educational institution, private organization, or local government body can apply. This year's grant funds totaling \$109,680.00 were awarded to six applicants during the 2020 fiscal year (FY), with five projects moving forward. The successful applicants and their projects are as follows:

1. Bicentennial Capitol Mall State Park, Davidson County, was awarded \$5,000.00 to expand and improve the quality of interpretation related to Tennessee's African American participation in the Civil War by establishing a traveling trunk program which will serve Nashville schools, by supporting African American living history interpreters at the Park's annual history event, and lastly, by expanding the Park's collection of reference materials to reflect the most current academic papers and copies of primary and secondary resources.

2. Camp Blount Historic Site Association, Lincoln County, was awarded \$25,000.00 to complete Phase II of fabrication for the “Tennessee Volunteer” statue. Phase II encompassed the creation of the mold, casting of the statue in bronze, transportation to and installation at the site. In the 2018 fiscal year, the Wars Commission awarded \$40,000.00 towards Phase I for the development of the “Tennessee Volunteer” statue.



Tennessee Volunteer Statue at Camp Blount

3. Historic Cragfont, Sumner County, was awarded \$5,000.00 to research and present the homefront story of Sumner County and Castalian Springs during the Civil War. This project involved a deeper study and discussion of life during the Civil War for the citizens and the enslaved community of Castalian Springs. Researchers examined not only the lives of the Bates, Wynne, and Winchester families but also of the enslaved community they owned.

4. Johnsonville State Historic Park, Humphreys County, was awarded \$11,500.00 to strengthen their current living history artillery and infantry firing demonstrations by purchasing one 10 pound Parrot artillery piece, which was part of the Federal defense of Johnsonville during the Civil War, and by purchasing one reproduction 1861 Springfield Musket.



Johnsonville State Historic Park’s Artillery Firing Demonstration

5. Parkers Crossroads, Henderson County, was awarded \$48,180.00 to expand their collection of field artillery pieces to include one reproduction field limber with ammunitions chest and limber pole and one caisson with ammunition chests and a spare wheel. The addition of this weaponry will help to interpret the role that artillery played on the battlefield. By providing a detailed interpretation of the logistical support, visitors will gain an understanding of the use of cannons that proved instrumental in the battlefield strategy at Parkers Crossroads.

6. Slave Haven Underground Railroad Museum, Shelby County, was awarded \$10,000.00 to undertake thorough research to explore the social impact and the events of the Civil War in Memphis, and their connection to the historic site. Topics focus on contraband camps and the Union encampment.

The grant cycle for the 2021 fiscal year concluded on November 15, 2020. Projects have been scored and will be presented to the Tennessee Historical Commission for final approval during the upcoming February 2021 meeting. In keeping with last year, the Wars Commission Grant Fund continues to be competitive, with nine applicants. Barring any additional budget reductions, the budget for the FY-21 grant cycle is up to \$100,000.00.

Civil War Sites Preservation Fund

The Civil War Sites Preservation Fund provides matching funds for the acquisition and preservation of Civil War battlefields. Properties must be associated with the 38 most significant Civil War sites in Tennessee, as defined by the National Park Service (NPS). Funds can also assist in the acquisition and protection of Underground Railroad sites eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, or eligible for designation as a National Historic Landmark. Applicants must be a 501(c)(3).



Ca. 1803 Brown's Tavern on the Chapin Tract

Since its conception in 2013, this grant fund has preserved over 900-acres of battlefield land. In the 2020-FY, this grant fund awarded \$902,239.00 for the acquisition of the following five tracts of land:

1. The Chattanooga and Wauhatchie Battlefields, the Chapin Tract located in Chattanooga, Hamilton County, was preserved with the help of the American Battlefield Trust (ABT) and the American Battlefield Protection Program (ABPP). Located along Browns Ferry Road,

the approximately nine-acre tract lies in the core area of the Chattanooga and Wauhatchie Battlefields. This parcel contains the historic

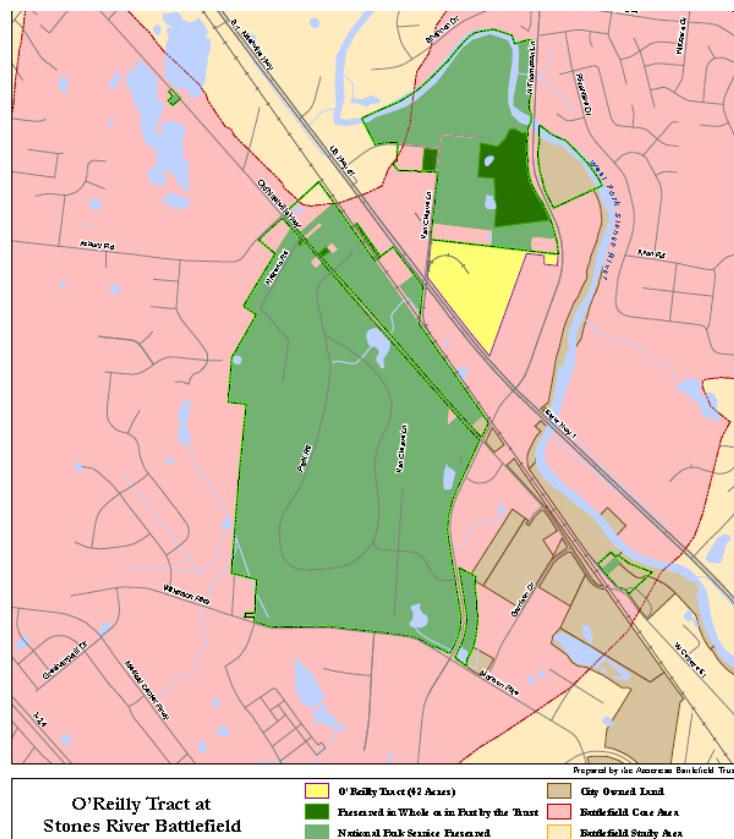
Brown's Tavern, a 212-year-old log structure associated with the 1838 Cherokee Removal along the Trail of Tears. Additionally, this structure would have likely been conscripted into service during the Civil War as a shelter and meeting point during Major General Joseph Hooker's winter encampment in 1863/1864. This year the Wars Commission granted \$15,708.37 in matching funds toward the acquisition of this parcel. These funds will be combined with last year's award of \$231,737.63.

2. The Shiloh Battlefield, the Cotner Tract located in the City of Michie, Hardin County, was preserved with the help of the American Battlefield Trust and the American Battlefield Protection Program. The 53-acre Cotner Tract, adjacent to the Shiloh National Military Park, was the location of significant troop movements and military actions that occurred on the morning of April 6, 1862. Forty Thousand Confederate soldiers under the command of Gen. Albert Sidney Johnston attacked the encamped Union divisions occupying ground near Pittsburg Landing on the Tennessee River. The overpowering Confederate attack threatened to overwhelm the Army of the Tennessee, yet the Union line held. Shiloh was one of the decisive battles of the Civil War. The Wars Commission awarded \$51,000.00 in matching funds towards this acquisition.

3. The Parkers Crossroads Battlefield, the Olive Tract located in the City of Parkers Crossroads, Henderson County, was preserved with the help of the American Battlefield Protection Program and the American Battlefield Trust. Consisting of one parcel totaling 0.55-acres located along Wildersville Road where on December 31, 1862, Union Brig. Gen. Jeremiah C. Sullivan, with the brigades of Col. Cyrus L. Dunham and Col. John W. Fuller, attempted to cut Forrest off from

withdrawing across the Tennessee River. Skirmishing began, with Forrest taking an initial position along a wooded ridge northwest of Dunham at the Parkers Crossroads intersection. Confederate artillery gained an early advantage. Federals repelled frontal feints until attacked on both flanks and rear by Forrest's mounted and dismounted troops. The Wars Commission has awarded \$125,000.00 in matching funds towards the purchase of this parcel.

4. The Stones River Battlefield, the O'Reilly Tract located in Murfreesboro, Rutherford County, was preserved with the help of the American Battlefield Protection Program and the American Battlefield Trust. Located along State Highway One, this 42-acre parcel lies adjacent to the Stone's River National Battlefield, a National Park Service-owned site, and near land already preserved by the Trust. This battlefield property encompasses the land where Major General William Rosecrans and General Braxton Bragg faced off. This tract is the location of George Wagner's troop position during the Battle of Stone's River, December 31, 1862, to January 2, 1863. The FY-2020 grant award totaled \$170,530.63 bringing the total Wars Commission contributions to \$1,998,033.01.



O'Reilly Tract in Yellow, Previously Preserved Land in Green, and Core Battlefield Land in Pink.

5. The Stones River Battlefield, the Van Cleve Tract located in Murfreesboro, Rutherford County, was preserved with the help of the American Battlefield Protection Program and the American Battlefield Trust. The six-acre parcel is adjacent to the National Military Park's boundaries and is located on the west side of Stones River where the final day of fighting occurred on January 2, 1863. After spending January 1st reorganizing and caring for the wounded, the two armies met on the afternoon of the 2nd when General Bragg ordered an attack on General Van Cleve's Division occupying a hill overlooking McFadden's Ford. The Wars Commission awarded \$540,000.00 in matching funds.

The grant cycle for the 2021 fiscal year concluded on October 31, 2020. Projects have been scored and will be presented to the Historical Commission for final approval during the upcoming February 2021 meeting. The Wars Commission received five applications this year for the Civil War Sites Preservation Fund.

Civic and Government Engagement

In addition to grants, the Wars Commission's mission is in part realized through civic and government engagement. The Wars Commission's Program Director has been serving as a historic preservation

advocate to city, county, and local governments as well as to various nonprofit historical associations and historic sites throughout Tennessee. Additionally, she serves as a board member and a consultant in an advisory capacity to several boards and organizations.

Through education and preservation support, the Wars Commission has expanded historic interests and preservation participation by formulating new and strengthening existing relationships with historic sites and battlefield parks, historical societies, and heritage groups throughout Tennessee. Although Covid-19 has stunted many of these efforts, recent examples of this type of engagement and collaboration are threefold, and activities include:

- Ongoing consultation with the Camp Blount Memorial Park site development team as they move into Phase I of construction. Additionally, the Director was a featured speaker at the October 2020 unveiling ceremony of the “Tennessee Volunteer” statue, an important element of the site plan.
- Following the 2019 signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Tennessee Historical Commission, the National Park Service, Parkers Crossroads Battlefield, and Shiloh National Military Park establishing an affiliated area, the Wars Commission continues collaborating with all parties working to develop the first NPS Foundation Document for an affiliated area. This document outlines the relationship of an affiliated area, demonstrates the park’s fundamental resources and values, interpretive themes, and key issues.
- Providing continuing support to the stakeholders at the Jackson/Salem Cemetery on possible historic preservation efforts, providing consultation regarding site development and future interpretative plans, and potential site expansion and land acquisitions.



Nina Scall Speaking at the Camp Blount Unveiling Ceremony for the Tennessee Volunteer Statue.

Interpretation and Education

Interpretation and education efforts help to further advance the Wars Commission's mission throughout Tennessee. Nina Scall's recent work has included the development of an easement monitoring strategy however, Covid-19 has derailed much of her site visits. She is currently, researching new ways of virtually visualizing sites by harnessing satellite technology and Geographic Information Systems. Site visits and property inspections ensure that the preservation clauses and conditions of these easements are being met by the property owners, as well as providing an opportunity to photograph baseline conditions at some of the more recently acquired easement tracts. Interpretive metal signage has been designed and will be installed once the virus is better under control, designating the properties as protected under easement by the State and the Tennessee Historical Commission. Currently, the Historical Commission holds conservation easements on approximately 2000-acres of battlefield property in eight counties throughout Tennessee.

The Wars Commission continues to advocate for the preservation and protection of Fort Negley. The Program Director serves on the Fort Negley Technical Advisory Committee to consult on future plans for archaeology and the stabilization and interpretation of both the 1860s fort and the later work done by the WPA in the 1930s.

Although Covid-19 has created many challenges, much has been accomplished in the 2020-FY, yet our work as preservation professionals is never done. Even though the virus remains prevalent, Director Scall is optimistic for preservation efforts in FY-2021; by continuing to think out of the box, the Wars Commission will carry on working to meet our mission of preserving Tennessee's military heritage.