



# THE COURIER



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TENNESSEE HISTORICAL COMMISSION, NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

FEBRUARY 2012

## Stager Named Assistant Director



Claudette Stager

Claudette Stager became Assistant Director for Federal Programs in November. Stager succeeded Richard Tune, who retired in June. Stager, who joined the staff of the Commission in 1984, previously served in the National Register program. “Claudette has extensive knowledge, experience, and dedication to Tennessee history and to the Tennessee Historical Commission,” said executive director Patrick McIntyre. A graduate of Syracuse University, Stager attended graduate school at Eastern Michigan, where she received an MA in Historic Preservation Planning. Stager co-edited *Looking Beyond the Highway: Dixie*

*Roads and Culture* and has authored articles in the Society of Commercial Archaeology’s “Road Notes and News.” In addition, she is the author of entries in both the Tennessee and Arkansas encyclopedias. Stager is also currently serving on a panel for the National Transportation Research Board looking at developing a context for post-World War II housing. In her new role, Stager will be charged with coordinating the federal Historic Preservation grants and overseeing programs including Historic Tax Credit Review, Certified Local Government, Section 106 Review and Compliance, Survey, and National Register.

## From the Director

One of the many joys of working at the Tennessee Historical Commission is seeing members of the public enjoy the grounds here at Clover Bottom, the beautiful Italianate-style house where our headquarters are located. If the weather is nice, people are almost always on the property taking photos or just enjoying the tremendous ambiance. Following last year’s exterior restoration of the 153 year old house, work is now underway to create a master plan for the grounds. The project is being overseen and funded through the Tennessee Dept. of General Services, which is responsible for the property. The master plan will provide guidelines for landscape restoration that will protect and enhance the historic character of the site. Clover Bottom has lost many mature trees in recent years, including 13 in just one storm last March. Native species will be used in re-planting, and there is discussion of the property possibly being designated an arboretum. We also hope to retire the beautiful early 20th-century cut stone entrance and create a larger and safer access point onto the property near the current entrance. If you have not visited recently, I hope you will stop by when you are in the neighborhood.

Also, the results are in from our survey for the next edition of the Tennessee State Preservation Plan. Thanks to each of you who responded—over 250 individuals participated. The results are fascinating but not surprising. Clearly, Tennesseans appreciate their historic resources! An overwhelming 94.8 % of respondents strongly agree that historic buildings and landscapes provide

valuable contributions to Tennessee’s communities and add to our quality of life. 83.6% of you believe that the most important aspect of the Commission’s work over for the next five years is to continue the federal historic preservation grant funding program. As for what category of historic resource participants felt was most important, the edge went to historic neighborhoods, with 82.7% rating them as “very important.” Conversely, only 18.8% of respondents classified industrial sites in that category. Work continues on the plan update—Look for the draft on our website this spring.

- Patrick McIntyre

## Look Online First!

As a reminder, *The Courier* is always online several weeks prior to the print edition. It is in color and with expanded content. Check it out at:

<http://www.tn.gov/environment/hist/courier/>

**2012 Commission Meeting Dates**

**For Final Schedules check online at:**

<http://www.tn.gov/environment/sunshine/#thc>

**Friday, February 17, 2012, Columbia, 9AM, St. Peter’s Episcopal Church Parish Hall, 311 West 7th Street**

**Friday, June 15, 2012, Collierville, 9 AM, Location TBD**

**Friday, October 19, Knoxville, 9 AM, Location TBD**



Mark Hicks of Johnson City died December 13, 2011 at the age of 84. He served as a member of the Tennessee Historical Commission from 1997 until 2010, when he resigned due to health issues. Born in Sevierville in 1927, Hicks moved to Washington County at the age of five. A 1951 graduate of the Vanderbilt University School of Law, he was a Senior Partner with Hicks, Arnold, Haynes & Sanders for 25 years, and also served as the Washington County Attorney for 18 years. At one time his law office was in the Chester Inn, now a Tennessee Historical Commission state-owned historic site. He is survived by his son Marks Clyde Hicks III, and daughter-in-law Carol Annette Hicks of Jonesborough; daughter Ellen Hicks Thornton of Nashville; a granddaughter and two step-granddaughters.

Preservation activist and community leader Mai Dee Hendricks of Bell Buckle died November at the age of 81. Mrs. Hendricks, a 1952 graduate of Tennessee State University, was a long-time board member of the Tennessee Preservation Trust (TPT.) In 2003, she and her late husband Fred received an award from TPT for their restoration efforts for the Gilliland House in Shelbyville, the former home of early 20th-century stonemason James Gilliland. Hendricks led the successful effort to transform the National Register-listed home into a museum dedicated to local African-American heritage.

Mrs. Merle Hutcheson Stanford Davis of Nashville, age 104, died November 19, 2011. Mrs. Davis, who resided in Clover Bottom Mansion from 1927-1948, was the last private owner of the property. She was profiled in the October, 2011 edition of the Courier.

## Jaime Lynn Destefano Joins Tennessee Historical Commission Staff

Jaime received her undergraduate degree in Anthropology with a concentration in Historic Archaeology from the College of Charleston. As an undergraduate student, Jaime was honored with the opportunity to intern at the Warren Lasch Conservation Center assisting the archaeology and conservation teams of the Confederate submarine, the *H. L. Hunley*. In 2008, she received a Master's of Historic Preservation from the joint Clemson University/College of Charleston program in Charleston, South Carolina. Following graduate school, Jaime was awarded a US/ICOMOS summer internship in Falmouth, Jamaica where she assisted in the completion of a large-scale architectural survey of the late-18th to early-20th-century town. Immediately following her internship, Jaime returned to her home town of Atlanta, Georgia where she worked three years as an Architectural Historian for Environmental Corporation of America, an environmental- and preservation-consulting firm in Alpharetta, Georgia. As the Senior Architectural Historian, her duties included the completion of Section 106 reviews, National Register-eligibility determinations, National Register nominations, large-scale architectural surveys, the development of historical contexts, cultural resource assessments, cemetery surveys, HABS documentation, and the preparation of Memorandum of Agreements.



*Jaime Lynn Destefano*

## Statewide Preservation Conference Coming to Nashville

The Tennessee Historical Commission began supporting an annual "Conference on Historic Preservation" in 1962. 50 years later, that tradition continues with our close partnership with the Tennessee Preservation Trust to produce the Statewide Preservation Conference. The premier educational opportunity for preservationists from across Tennessee to convene, learn from each other and hear from informative speakers from across the country, this year's conference will be held in Nashville from May 31 to June 2nd. Featured speakers include well-known preservation expert Bob Yapp, former host of the popular PBS series "About Your House." There will also be a Commissioners' Assistance Mentoring Program (CAMP) training for members of local historic preservation commissions from across the state as well as workshops and tours. The conference hotel is Indigo-Downtown. Reservations may be arranged by calling 1-877-834-3613 and asking for Block Code "TPT." Book by April 30th for the conference rate of \$129 per night. For complete information about the schedule, go to [www.tennesseepreservationtrust.org](http://www.tennesseepreservationtrust.org)



# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES NEWS

By Jaime L. Destefano

## PINEY FLATS HISTORIC DISTRICT



Situated along the tracks of the Norfolk & Southern Railroad in Sullivan County, the Piney Flats Historic district is comprised of 36 principal properties located within the heart of the unincorporated village of Piney Flats. With its earliest resources dating to the 1880s and the latest contributing resources dating to c.1960, properties within the district reflect the historic and architectural development of the Piney Flats community throughout the late-19th to mid-20th century.

The majority of the historic resources are residential; however, others include commercial buildings, a church, school, cemetery, and park.

A variety of architectural styles are reflected in the historic houses of Piney Flats. Seven of the houses constructed between 1880 and 1910 feature Queen Anne-style elements such as turned and sawn woodwork. One of the homes constructed c.1880 features a porch balustrade, gable trim, a large wood front door with multi-paned transom and sidelights, and a front shed roof porch with turned wood balusters. There are six bungalows within the district constructed between 1920 and 1933. The bungalows are typically one to two stories, frame construction, with side gable roofs. Piney Flats also contains an I-House (1900), English Cottage Revival (1937), Dutch Colonial Revival (1938), and one Ranch style home (1958).

Architecture of Piney Flats commercial structures is represented in three surviving buildings and characterized by their basic forms and lack of ornamentation. The *Mitchell Carr General Store* (1939) is a one-story, wood frame building with weatherboard siding, a metal gable roof, and a false front. The *Wolfe Brothers Furniture Co. Building* is a large, two-story wood frame furniture manufacturing facility built in 1888. It is clad with weatherboard and contains six-over-six, double-hung windows and a front porch. Its gable roof has a monitor roof in the center, under which was housed the lift equipment. The *Wolfe Brothers Machine Shop* (1900) contains board and batten siding, a metal gable roof, and six-over-six, double-hung windows.

One of the first settlers to the area, Reverend Andrew Shell, is credited with the community's earliest growth. A major

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## National Register News

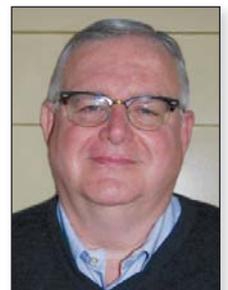
Since the last issue of *The Courier* there have been eight entries to the National Register of Historic Places from Tennessee. The properties are: Memphis Landing, Shelby County; Russell House, Robertson County; Park-Elkins Historic District, Davidson County; Whitaker-Motlow House, Lincoln County; Johnson City County Club, Washington County; Fort Anderson on Militia Hill, Anderson County; Piney Flats Historic District, Sullivan County; and War Memorial Building, Anderson County.

The Chucky Depot in Greene County was moved and, therefore, automatically removed from the National Register.

There are now 2,076 entries in the National Register from Tennessee including 271 districts for a total of 41,796 resources now listed.

## Dan Brown Joins THC Staff

Dan Brown began working for the Tennessee Historical Commission as the Certified Local Government Coordinator in October of 2011. He was previously the Senior Architectural Historian for Earth Search, Inc. a Cultural Resources Management firm in New Orleans, and has served as the Executive Director of the Tennessee Preservation Trust in Nashville while he taught as an Adjunct Professor of History at Middle Tennessee State University in Murfreesboro. He also worked as the Deputy Director of the Vieux Carre Commission in New Orleans, and has a background in nonprofit/public administration as well as Historic Preservation rehabilitation contracting. Dan has a Master's degree in Historic Preservation from the Tulane University School of Architecture in New Orleans. He is ABD for an interdisciplinary Ph.D. in Historic Preservation at Tulane and is currently completing his dissertation. Dan grew up in Tennessee and his extended family resides in Nashville and throughout the state.





## National Register of Historic Places News...continued

landowner in the region by the mid-1800s, Shell eventually established the village's first post office in 1855 and a small Union church, referred to as Shell's Chapel, in 1873 (not extant). The village's first train depot (not extant) was constructed c.1858 and was referred to as "Shell's Station," after Reverend Shell. Reverend Shell passed away in April of 1880 and was laid to rest beneath an oak tree at the top of a hill on his farm. Over time, additional individuals were buried near Shell's grave and the small burial ground eventually became known as *Shell's Cemetery*.

Completion of the East Tennessee & Virginia Railroad in 1858 provided an advantage for economic development and soon attracted many businessmen including furniture-maker John Bunyan Wolfe, grandson of Reverend Andrew Shell. In 1886, Wolfe acquired property adjacent to the railroad and established Wolfe Brothers and Co., a local business that would significantly contribute to the growth and prosperity of the community. The 1888, two-story manufacturing building of *Wolfe Brothers and Co.* features weatherboard siding, a metal gable roof, six-over-six, double-hung wood sash windows, and a front porch with shed roof. The factory was the largest private employer in Piney Flats for decades. The business closed in 2000.

Other early businesses in Piney Flats include a blacksmith, a livery stable, machine shops, a canning factory, a feather-packing operation, among others. Of the early businesses, only one general store survives. The *Mitchell Carr Store*, constructed in 1939, sold primarily farm supplies and grocery items. Currently used for storage, the frame building continues to display the title "General Store" across its false front.

The *Wolfe Brothers Machine Shop* survives at 314 Mountain View Drive. Constructed in 1900, it served as the planer mill for the *Wolfe Brothers and Co.* and later became the personal machine shop of John Bunyan Wolfe.

J.B. Wolfe and his brother William also developed the first telephone system in Piney Flats in 1900. When the system first began operation, the switchboard was located in J.B. Wolfe's home and his wife, Lenora, served as the system's operator. This home survives today and is located at 317 Main Street.

In 1914, the red brick *Piney Flats Union Church* was completed. It features stained glass windows, a cross-gabled roof, and belfry. Curved, solid oak pews constructed by *Wolfe Brothers and Co.* remain intact. The sanctuary features high, vaulted ceilings. Despite a number of improvements and additions, the original woodwork and all of the original stained glass survive. Today, the church is known as the *Piney Flats United Methodist Church*.

Construction of the *Mary Hughes School* was completed in 1897. Four additional classrooms and an auditorium were constructed in 1924. In addition, one of the first gymnasiums in rural East Tennessee was constructed at *Mary Hughes*. In 1941, the building

was destroyed by fire and a new school was soon constructed at the site. The two-story, Colonial Revival building is constructed of red brick. The shingled, cross-gable roof contains a wood cupola. Each story features a long row of windows across both floors of the façade. A small portico at the main entrance is supported by two white columns. A new gym and cafeteria were added in 1949. Sullivan County's high schools were consolidated in 1968 and the *Mary Hughes School* was designated for use as an elementary and middle school. Currently, it is the only school in Sullivan County to house kindergarten through eighth grades.

## WHITAKER-MOTLOW HOUSE

Located in the community of Mulberry in Lincoln County, the Whitaker-Motlow House was built c.1846 by Newton



Whitaker, son of one of Mulberry's early founders, John Whitaker. The house is an excellent example of an 1840s Greek Revival I-House in Lincoln County. Few details are known about Newton Whitaker; however, his elegant yet functional house seems to have fit his lifestyle and social class.

Newton was born in 1816 and was the youngest of the family. He was a member of the Freemasons and was chosen as the local delegate to the Whig Party convention held in Shelbyville, Tennessee in 1852. In the same year, the Tennessee General Assembly appointed Newton to the board of commissioners for the Central Union Railroad. Two years later, Newton was named in the establishment of the Shelbyville Bank of Tennessee as a supervisor over the subscriptions of stock for the Mulberry community. Newton Whitaker seems to have also successfully operated a farm. According to the inventory taken at the time of his death in 1878, Newton was in possession of 30.5 bushels of wheat and 24 barrels of corn, in addition to several pieces of farming equipment.

Newton Whitaker's house is primarily Greek Revival in style with later Italianate details. The most identifying features are consistent with the Greek Revival-style that dominated Southern architecture from about 1830 to 1860. As is typical of the style,

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## National Register of Historic Places News...*continued*

the house features a wide cornice line accentuated by a band of trim divided into two parts. The most prominent feature of the house is the single bay, two-story entry porch consisting of a pediment supported by large, square columns at the front, and brick pilasters at the back. This façade pattern is seen often in Middle Tennessee I-houses. These square columns present on homes such as Newton's were less costly to construct than round columns with more elaborate capitals. Like many Greek Revival houses in the South, the Whitaker House is side-gabled. Both the main entry door and that of the upper balcony feature full transoms and sidelights. The transoms and sidelights consist of narrow, rectangular panes of red-colored glass. The interior of the Whitaker-Motlow House is characterized by a central hall and stair, which on both floors is flanked by large, open rooms. The floors are constructed of heart of pine boards, the majority of which are original.

Newton Whitaker resided in his elegant brick house until 1877 when he sold it, along with about 100 acres to his son-in-law R.A. Rees and his cousin John Rees. The house was once again sold in 1903 to Robert Lee Motlow. A circa 1905 photograph shows the inclusion of Italianate detailing such as sawn wood brackets.

A massive tornado devastated the house in 1909. The 1909 tornado brought overwhelming destruction to the house, ripping away about 2/3 of the second story, although part of the façade remained intact. Motlow was able to rebuild the house close to its original design. According to Bob Motlow's daughter, during reconstruction, he replaced the long wooden panels in the front door with long panes of glass. The only real indication of reconstruction is seen in the brick variances found on the upper portions of the exterior walls.

Motlow lived in the house until his death in 1959. During the 1960s and 1970s, two different owners made changes to the house. These ultimately resulted in only minor aesthetic alterations to the house. During the 1960s a small addition was constructed on the rear east elevation of the house, which accommodated an upper story bathroom and a first floor office area. The owners responsible for this addition took great pains to ensure that the original character of the house remained intact.

In 1987, the Whitaker-Motlow House was purchased by its current owner. Since that time, the house has undergone rehabilitation on both the exterior and interior. Throughout the project, the owners have kept any and all of the usable and salvageable original materials. Interior and exterior rehabilitation focused on repairing and securing the house. Despite the reconstruction of the second-story following the 1909 tornado and subsequent minor alterations and additions, much of the house retains its architectural integrity and remains one of only a few surviving Greek Revival I-Houses from the 1840s. Situated on a 29-acre lot, the house is surrounded by a combination of cleared agricultural fields and wooded areas. The property also includes historic stone walls, smoke house, well, and cistern.

## THE CERTIFIED LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROGRAM

*By Dan Brown, Certified Local Government Coordinator*

The Certified Local Government Program (CLG) is a Federal program grounded in the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 that developed from amendments in 1980 and 1992. It is a formal process that establishes preservation partnerships with local communities and state and national governments. The primary partnership is established between the CLG and the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and is funded, supported, and administrated with the National Park Service (NPS) to provide economic development, heritage tourism, sustainability, and heritage protection. In Tennessee the SHPO function is administrated by the Tennessee Historical Commission (THC). Local and/or county governments may formally apply to the SHPO for CLG status and after approval may identify themselves as such, and participate in the program. Primary benefits of the program include priority access to yearly federal preservation grant funds and priority access to assistance and guidance from the Certified Local Government Coordinator. The Certified Local Government Coordinator enhances that relationship with working partnerships with the National Alliance of Preservation Commissions (NAPC), the National Trust for Historic Preservation (NTHP/National Trust), National Main Street Center (Main Street), and others plus statewide, regional, and local preservation organizations such as the Tennessee Preservation Trust (TPT), among many other local and regional groups and partners. The CLG Coordinator also provides training, and technical, procedural, and administrative support, and helps coordinate the many other functions that the THC performs across the state with these communities. In many respects the CLG Coordinator is the public face of the THC in these CLG communities and others across the state. In addition the THC partially funds seven preservation planners located in their respective regional development districts across the state. These preservation planners work directly with their local communities on preservation issues and their efforts are coordinated with the CLG Coordinator through regular and ongoing communication.

Yearly training is a required component of the CLG program and the CLG Coordinator often does that personally, but the core of structured training for the CLGs is provided through regional training coordinated with the National Alliance of Preservation Commissions, with their Commission Assisted Mentoring Program (CAMP). These CAMPs are often offered in conjunction the THC sponsored Statewide Preservation Conference and Main Street Summit hosted yearly around the state by the Tennessee Preservation Trust- the statewide partner for the National Trust. These CAMPs are usually day-long training sessions structured to meet the needs of the participating communities and professional prominent instructors are involved from across the nation to provide the highest quality training available in the preservation

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## Certified Local Government...continued

industry. The statewide preservation conference also provides timely professional training sessions at their conference.

CLGs participate integrally in the National Register of Historic Places process. After eligibility is determined for a National Register nomination the CLG is notified and their recommendation is integral to the National Register review, consideration and approval. CLGs also participate in yearly reporting of their activities and actions. These reports become a national data base that supports the economic impacts and calculations for our industry. CLGs are also integral to the broad awareness and application of the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties (SOI Standards). Through the establishment of historic districts and design guidelines SOI Standards and practices are established and expanded throughout the state. SOI standards are the essential practices that provide for the treatment and care of historic properties and their application is often inconsistent. CLG districts codify these treatments and normalize their broad use on historic properties.

In Tennessee there are currently thirty-one CLG communities: Bartlett, Bolivar, Brownsville, Chattanooga, Clarksville, Collierville, Columbia, Cookeville, Covington, Dandridge, Elizabethton, Franklin, Gainesboro, Gallatin, Greeneville, Harriman, Hohenwald, Jackson, Johnson City, Jonesborough, Kingsport, Knoxville, LaGrange, Martin, McMinnville, Memphis, Murfreesboro, Nashville, Rogersville, Shelbyville, and Sparta. Two of those communities, Jackson and Clarksville have extended their CLG coverage to include the surrounding county. This list demonstrates that the CLG program includes a wide range of communities from our largest to some of our smallest and includes a broad representation from all three grand divisions of the state. Being a CLG obviously identifies a community as having a strong commitment to preserving

and protecting its historic resources and supporting that commitment with the appropriate legislation and active administration. A CLG must have a local coordinator, an historic district commission, and appropriate adopted legislation to support ordinance and design guidelines enforcement. These communities represent an exceptional patrimony of historic places and efforts to protect those resources.

The THC hopes to expand the number of CLGs across the state in the near future. Considering the number of historic communities that have an interest and focus on heritage it is reasonable to anticipate that the CLG program could expand to include approximately fifty communities. The national average is 36 CLGs per state and nationally an average of one CLG per state is added yearly. Tennessee, especially considering its population, meets or exceeds anticipated CLG participation and activity.

As mentioned earlier, CLGs receive priority access to federal grants funding. Federal regulations require that CLGs receive a minimum of 10% of grant funds available and one central function of the CLG Coordinator is to facilitate and assist the CLGs with these grant applications. Priorities for grant funding are focused on planning grants such as preservation plans, design guidelines, surveys and inventories, and training, but brick and mortar grants are also awarded annually and play an important role in stabilizing and saving endangered structures.

The thrust of all of these efforts is economic development which is at the core of the THC/SHPO/CLG mission. These irreplaceable resources are the heart of Tennessee's multi-billion dollar heritage tourism industry and are integral to the identity and heritage of our state. This deep and rich architectural and cultural patrimony comprises a broad core of sustainable and green communities that will support and enrich our future generations economically and culturally. Our CLG program is strong, vital, and growing, and will continue to add to the enhancement, development, and preservation of these critical resources.



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# Tennessee Wars Commission Report of Activities

January, 2012, Fred M. Prouty, Director of Program

## DAVIS BRIDGE BATTLEFIELD SURVEYED FOR INTERPRETIVE TRAIL

Mr. Bill Avant, State Manager of GIS and Land Acquisitions for the Department of Environment and Conservation, recently surveyed the once endangered battlefield grounds at Davis Bridge on the Hatchie River in Hardeman and McNairy Counties. Shiloh National Park Service staff members joined Tennessee State Park officials on site to review locations for placement of trails, parking lots, restroom facilities and the location of a pedestrian bridge across the Hatchie River that will allow park visitors access to the other half of the battlefield. The Tennessee Wars Commission was awarded a \$900,000 Federal Enhancement Grant to create the Davis Bridge Battlefield interpretive trail system. Once opened, the property will become Tennessee's newest Civil War Battlefield Park, containing over 98% of the original National Landmark boundary, and now preserved for future generations.

### STATE LANDS ACQUISITION COMMISSION APPROVES PROJECTS

At the June 2011 State Lands Acquisition Commission (SLAC) meeting the Tennessee Wars Commission presented several projects for funding aimed at preservation and interpretation of endangered historic Civil War sites in Tennessee. All of the projects have now been approved for funding and are as follows:

1. The **Fort Redmond Civil War field fortifications** (Redoubt) 20-acre tract on the Red River near the City of Adams in Robertson County (\$215,000).
2. The **Davis Bridge Battlefield** 4.5-acre tract with historic farmhouse in Hardeman County (\$65,000).
3. The **Battle of Franklin** with two properties in the City of Franklin, Williamson County, **Loring's Advance 4.89-acre tract** (\$210,000)

and the 1-acre **Fudge tract** (\$206,000) near the Carter House Historic site.

The above sites have been through grants received from our preservation partners at the Civil War Trust (501c-3) of Washington, DC, The American Battlefield Protection Program, The City of Adams, Tennessee and Industrial Board of Robertson County, the Davis Bridge Battlefield Memorial Association and the Tennessee State Acquisition Fund.

The Tennessee Wars Commission is deeply indebted to our preservation partners who have helped **save over 850 acres of endangered Tennessee Civil War battlefield property last year and contributed funds exceeding \$2,729,000**. Since 1998 the National Park Service's American Battlefield Protection Program has contributed over \$3,000,000 for six endangered Tennessee battlefields, allowing the Tennessee Wars Commission to secure over **\$7,464,061 in non-federal leveraged matching funds** for a **total battlefield land acquisition cost of \$10,350,636**.

### WAR OF 1812 INTERPRETIVE SITE PLAN FOR FAYETTEVILLE

At the request of Executive Director Jerry Mansfield, South Central Tennessee Development District, Wars Commission director Fred Prouty made several visits to Fayetteville, Tennessee to assess possibilities for the creation of an interpretive park at the historic site of Camp Blount, honoring Tennessee troops who encamped and trained for service in the War of 1812 and Creek War of 1813-1814, while under command of General Andrew Jackson. After the on site survey of the Camp Blount, a review is now being created to address the interpretation of an historic greenway trail system, wayside sign locations and text. Site mechanics such as parking, visitor

facilities, and the possibility of tying the site to the nearby city park by means of a pedestrian walkway across the Elk River are all being considered.

Nearly twenty state and private organizations have joined to create a statewide initiative to commemorate Tennessee 200th Anniversary of the War of 1812. These organizations are partnering to create both short and long-term events and programs commemorating Tennessee's contributions to the war. Tennessee rose to prominence on General Andrew Jackson's military and political success, thus changing and transforming Tennessee from a frontier state to one of national and international prominence. The war has been remembered in Tennessee with nearly 1/3 of our state counties named for people or events associated with the War of 1812.

The War of 1812 Committee who meet at the Hermitage, home of Andrew Jackson, are creating plans for symposium conferences, special events with living history participants, creation of a state wide tourism trail brochure and signage, a traveling museum of historic exhibitions, and community development and partnerships, along with possible funding resources. The War of 1812 Bicentennial commemoration plans includes events beginning in 2012 through 2015.

### BURIAL REPORT OF CIVIL WAR DEAD IN NASHVILLE

The Wars Commission has approved a grant to the Tennessee State Library and Archives Friends Group, for the creation of a searchable MS Access database of the National Archives entitled, "Federal Soldier Burial Sheets" that list 15,569 Civil War burials at the Nashville National Cemetery. During the Civil War thousands of Union Soldiers were buried in large trenches near the Nashville City Cemetery. These men had fought in a

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## TCWPA Launches Statewide Battlefield Preservation Plan

Preservationists from across Tennessee gathered at Lipscomb University on May 13 and 14th for the first statewide Battlefield preservation Summit of its kind. Facilitators challenged the participants to examine the significance, condition and preservation feasibility of the 39 Civil War Sites Advisory Commission (CWSAC) “most significant” battle sites and the 123 sites in Tennessee the CWSAC recommended for further study. Participants, by Grand Division, characterized each known battlefield calling upon personal knowledge, internet searches and the new Tennessee State Library and Archives Civil War GIS program. Participants also examined opportunities for collaborative preservation for the sites. Partners such as the Land Trust for Tennessee, the Civil War Trust, the State of Tennessee (Parks, Greenways, TWRA, CW Trails program) and many other agencies and local organizations, are identified as potential “partners in preservation” as the plan is developed.

Volunteers from each Grand Division have formed teams to do the follow-up work and help write the plan and on December 2nd, Team captains met to chart their teams’ next tasks.



*Battlefield Preservation Summit participants plan strategies for east Tennessee battlefield preservation.*

### TCWPA’s New Website

Join TCWPA’s team, learn about preservation efforts, explore Tennessee’s battlefields online, order the official Tennessee Civil War Sesquicentennial license plate or shop for official 150th merchandise.

By February, TCWPA should be online with a new website (tcwpa.org) – designed to provide you the information you need in a modern, fresh way. TCWPA appreciates the supporting donation from the website developer JLBWorks. A new feature, replacing the battlefield assessment program, links the user to the new Tennessee Civil War GIS program, the first of its kind in the country. The Tennessee State Library and Archives program allows you to explore the history

of each battle site, view historic maps and current maps, letters, objects – a complete treasure trove of fascinating information.

### Trekking the Battlefields – Three Star Tour in West Tennessee

Three Star Battlefield Tour of Forts Wright, Randolph and Pillow: In early November more than 60 participants visited Forts Wright and Randolph and the largely intact Confederate powder magazine. Tim Sloan, Graydon Swisher, and David Gwinn led the tour. Lee Millar then provided a hiking tour of Fort Pillow from the outer fortifications to the interior of the fort. Tipton County, the Tipton County Historical Society, Fort Wright Historical Association and the General Nathan Bedford Forrest Historical Society supported the event with vans, snacks and water, tour leaders and a reception on Friday evening in Covington.

### TCWPA Recognizes Outstanding Preservation Leaders

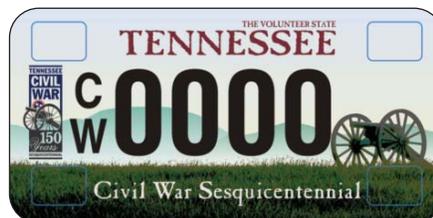
TCWPA awarded Bobby Hargrove of Franklin, TN the 2011 Robert A. Ragland Award for his outstanding work in battlefield preservation. Bobby was recognized for his many years of service promoting the significance of local sites and working tirelessly on events, restoration and maintenance work at Franklin area sites, and as a long time volunteer at the Carter House.

Collierville’s Diana Dubois received TCWPA’s President’s Partnership award for her outstanding service as an urban planner. Diana led efforts to identify Battle of Collierville sites, promoted interpretation of the battle story through the Civil War Trails program and a walking tour of Battle of Collierville sites. Diana achieved these successes by building a team of local historians, city staff and other Collierville citizens.

### The Official Tennessee Civil War Sesquicentennial License Plate

As of press time TCWPA has 700 pledges for our license plate; 300 more are needed very soon, with only a few months left to make this happen. Please join the final push.

If you haven’t pledged your order, please go to [www.tcwpa.org](http://www.tcwpa.org) and submit the online form. It takes only seconds. Tell your friends and family about this opportunity and encourage them to join this effort to help preserve and interpret Tennessee’s hallowed ground.



“This is a great cause and an important moment in our nation’s history as we commemorate the Sesquicentennial of the American Civil War, says President Danley, “Please take on this small extra duty to help achieve our goal to honor those who served, fought and died.”



# TENNESSEE POTTERIES, POTS, AND POTTERS 1790s TO 1950

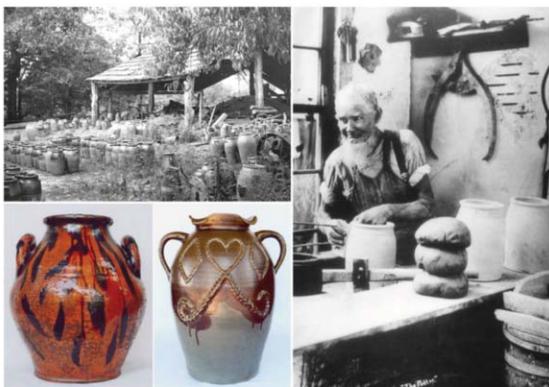
(Two Volumes)

by Samuel D. Smith and Stephen T. Rogers

The Tennessee Division of Archaeology and Tennessee Historical Commission announce the publication of a large two volume book documenting historic pottery making in Tennessee. This encyclopedic reference describes a research project lasting over three decades that identifies over 500 individuals who were directly associated with the Tennessee pottery industry, discusses the evolution in pottery making traditions and technologies from lead-glazed earthenware to salt-glazed stoneware, and documents 199 pottery-making sites throughout Tennessee. From utilitarian

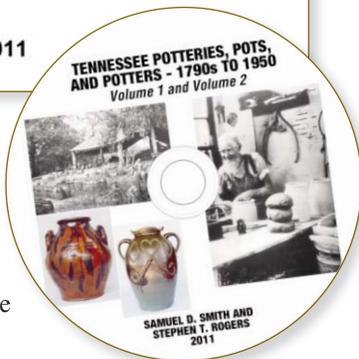
## TENNESSEE POTTERIES, POTS, AND POTTERS - 1790s TO 1950

Volume 1 and Volume 2



SAMUEL D. SMITH and STEPHEN T. ROGERS

2011



crocks, churns and jugs, to decorative art pottery, this 1,116 page book contains 490 images that thoroughly illustrate the diverse range of ceramics produced in Tennessee over a 160 year time period.

The personal stories that emerge about these potters offer insight into larger events that shaped Tennessee history. Early immigration of potters during the first half of the 19th century into Tennessee

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## NEWS FROM THE STATE HISTORIC SITES

Martha Akins, State Historic Sites Director

### ALEX HALEY MUSEUM AND INTERPRETIVE CENTER, HENNING

*The 1919 Bungalow boyhood home of Pulitzer Prize winner/author Alex Haley.*

This month marks the 35th anniversary of the 1977 Emmy-winning ABC miniseries, *Roots*. The site is also hosting the exhibit "We Shall Not Be Moved: The 50th Anniversary of Tennessee's Civil Rights Sit-Ins" from January 26th to March 8th.

### CHESTER INN, JONESBOROUGH

*1797 Federal style inn with Victorian front porch. Finest inn on the Tennessee frontier, visited by all three Presidents from Tennessee.*

Martha Akins spoke about the state historic sites at the 2011 East Tennessee Preservation Conference, which was hosted in part by the Heritage Alliance of Northeast Tennessee and Southwest Virginia. The Heritage Alliance is the managing non-profit of the Chester Inn.

### CRAGFONT, CASTALIAN SPRINGS

*1798-1802 Federal/Georgian style home of General James Winchester, founder of Memphis.*

Students led by Dr. Carroll Van West of TN Civil War National Heritage Area/MTSU Center for Historic Preservation will be visiting the site in mid-February to begin a Historic Structures Report. In addition, a project that includes painting and other minor maintenance is being prepared by THC's architectural consultant, Jim Thompson of Centric Architecture.

### DUCKTOWN BASIN MUSEUM AND BURRA BURRA MINE, DUCKTOWN

*Former copper mining headquarters containing 10 buildings and 17 acres, operational period 1899 to 1959.*

The site will be closed for a short period in February while the Visitor Center undergoes some cosmetic upgrades.

### HAWTHORNE HILL, CASTALIAN SPRINGS

*Ca. 1800 Federal style brick house, home of Colonel Humphrey Bate (War of 1812), and birthplace of William B. Bate, Tennessee Governor (1826-1905)*

TN Civil War National Heritage Area/MTSU Center for Historic Preservation is wrapping up a Historic Structures Report for this site. This report will be instrumental in restoring the property.

### JAMES K. POLK ANCESTRAL HOME, COLUMBIA

*1816 Federal style brick house, home of James K. Polk, America's 11th President*

Wieck Construction will be doing work at this site that includes exterior painting, some restoration work, and restroom upgrades. Their winning bid for this project was \$95,500.

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## P U B L I C A T I O N S T O N O T E

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

**Publications of Louisiana State University Press, 3990 West Lakeshore Drive, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70808 includes:**

*Occupied Women: Gender, Military Occupation, and the American Civil War* edited by LeeAnn Whites and Alecia P. Long. Now in paperback, this work which includes contributions by twelve historians take into account how women's reactions to occupation affected both the strategies of military leaders and in time the outcome of America's Civil War. With occupation, the home front and the battlefield fused and gave rise to an unforeseen second front where civilians, mostly women stood firm against what they saw as unjust domination. Whites, a professor of history at the University of Missouri, and Long an associate professor of history and director of the Listening to Louisiana Women Oral History Project at Louisiana State University, have gone against the grain of traditional depictions of Confederate women portrayed as powerless by occupying armies and demonstrates that women came together to structure a concerted localized resistance to military invasion. Regardless of what side women may have supported or their status as slave or free, the contributors to **Occupied Women, Gender, Military Occupation and the American Civil War** examines the common experience of occupied women and addresses the unique situations faced by each. By expanding the discourse of the Civil War to the "relational field of battle," this trailblazing monograph assists with reconfiguring the locus of the conflict and the Civil War's order of events. **Paper, \$21.95.**

**Publications of The University of North Carolina Press, 116 South. Boundary Street, Chapel Hill, North Carolina 27514-3808 includes:**

*The New Encyclopedia of Southern Culture, "Media," Volume 18*, edited by Allison Graham & Sharon Monteith looks at how mass media shaped the current discernments of the South—and how the

South has fashioned the annals of mass media. Forty thematic essays and 132 topical articles bring into focus the editors' overview. These essays and articles examine major trends and seminal moments in film, television, radio, the press, and Internet history. Graham, a professor of media studies at the University of Memphis, and Monteith, a professor of American Studies at the University of Nottingham, gives the reader an interesting montage of the media's role in the culture of the South. Among the topics examined are the southern media boom, beginning with the Christian Broadcast Network and CNN, as well as popular movies, television shows, and periodicals that shaped views and judgments about America's southern region. This volume brings to the reader's attention the media's involvement in southern history, from portrayals of race in the movies to news coverage of the civil rights movement and Hurricane Katrina. **Paper, \$26.95.**

Another work published by the University of North Carolina Press is *Lincoln and the Triumph of the Nation: Constitutional Conflict in the American Civil War* by Mark E. Neely, Jr. Neely, a Pulitzer Prize-winning historian investigates for the first time in one volume the United States Constitution and the often overlook Confederate Constitution and the ways these documents shaped the struggle for national survival. The McCabe-Greer Professor of Civil War History at Pennsylvania State University, the author has spent a major portion of his professional career writing about Abraham Lincoln, nationalism, and civil liberties during the Civil War. Previous scholars have looked at the wartime challenges to civil liberties and the questions of presidential power, but the argument put forth in this volume contends that the constitutional controversy extended to the largest issue of national existence. Utilizing judicial opinions, presidential state papers, and

political pamphlets, the author exposes how judges, lawyers, editors, politicians, and government officials both North and South, used their respective constitutions to waged the war and save, or create, their nation. *Lincoln and the Triumph of the Nation* elucidates how the United States Constitution not only survived its greatest challenge but became stronger after the Civil War when the very existence of America was threatened. Those interested in the Civil War's sesquicentennial should read this book. **Cloth, \$35.00.**

The University of North Carolina Press also published *Defending White Democracy: The Making of a Segregationist Movement and the Remaking of Radical Politics, 1936-1965* by Jason Morgan Ward. Ward, an assistant professor of history at Mississippi State University argues that southern conservatives began mobilizing against civil rights in the era before World War II, when the New Deal politics of the mid-1930s threatened the domination that whites held in the South. While white opposition to the modern civil rights movement has been characterized as a counterattack that was reactive in its genesis, Ward demonstrates that years before many white southerners resisted racial change at every turn and thereby launched a preemptive campaign aimed at preserving the social order that was under siege. Connecting the racial controversies of the New Deal to the more familiar confrontations of the 1950s and 1960s, the author uncovers a parallel history of segregationist opposition that mirrors new focus on the long civil rights movement and raises questions about the enduring influence of segregation's defenders. *Defending White Democracy: The Making of a Segregationist Movement and the Remaking of Radical Politics, 1936-1965* continues to add to the historiography of the era and illustrates the forces that fashioned the political life of the South and the nation. **Cloth, \$34.95.**



## LETTER FROM EX-GOVERNOR ISHAM G. HARRIS FROM MEXICO

*Memphis Daily Appeal, December 15, 1865*

Overland Trip to Mexico-Studying Spanish Under Difficulties-In the Halls of Montezuma-Interview with the Emperor and Empress-Confederates in Mexico-Invitations to come to Mexico—Inducements-Commodore Maury-Commissioner of Civilization-The Lands Intended for Emigrants-The Climate-The Products-Coffee Culture-Fruits-A Home of Beauty and Fragrance-Ice in the Distance-Among the Ruins of the Old Haciendas-What Produced the Ruins-Former Buildings-Prominent Confederates Colonizing-Growing Prospects-Lazy Mexicans-“Mexican Times”-Governor Allen of Louisiana on the Tripod Situation of Cordova.

Through the kindness of Mr. George W. Adair, of the firm of Clayton, Adair & Purse, we are permitted to make the following extracts from a letter recently received from Hon. Isham G. Harris, Ex-Governor of Tennessee, who is now at Cordova, Mexico. The letter is highly entertaining:

**Cordova, Mexico, Nov. 12, 1865**  
**George W. Adair**

*My Dear Sir* – I lingered near Grenada, endeavoring to arrange some business matters, until the fourteenth of May. In the morning of the fourteenth I embarked, some six miles east of Greenwood, and set sail for the trans-Mississippi, the party consisting of Gen. Lyon, of Kentucky, myself, and our two servants. We navigated the backwater for one hundred and twenty miles, and on the morning of the twenty-first, just before daylight, I crossed at the foot of Island No. 75, just below the mouth of the Arkansas river; proceeded westward as far as the backwater was navigable, and on the morning of the 23d I left my frail bark, bought horses, mounted the party, and set out for Shreveport, where I hoped to find an army resolved on continued resistance to Federal rule; but before reaching Shreveport, I learned that the army of the Trans-Mississippi had disbanded, and scattered to the winds, and all the officers of rank had gone to Mexico.

Having no further motive to visit Shreveport, I turned my course to Red River county, Texas, where a portion of my negroes and plantation stock had been carried some two years ago. I reached there on the seventh of June; I was taken sick and confined to my bed for a week. On the fifteenth of June, with my baggage, cooking utensils and provisions on a pack mule, I set out for San Antonio, where I expected to overtake a large number of Confederate, civil and military, officer, *en route* for Mexico. Reached San Antonia the twenty sixth, and learned that all Confederates had left for Mexico some ten days or two weeks before. On the morning of the twenty-seventh, I started to Eagle-Pass on the Rio Grande-the Federals holding all the crossings of that river below Eagle Pass. I reached Eagle Pass on the evening of the thirtieth, and immediately crossed over to the Mexican town of Pledras Negras. On the morning of the first July, set out for Monterey [*sic*]; arrive there on the evening of the ninth. Here I overtook Gen Price and Ex. Go. Polk, of Missouri, who were starting of the city of Mexico the next morning, with an escort of twenty armed Missourians. As I was going to the city, and the rip was a long and dangerous for me to make alone, I decided to go with the, though I was literally worn out with over fifteen hundred miles of continuous horseback travel. I exchange my saddle horse, saddles, etc., for an ambulance; but my two mules to it, gave the whip and lines to Ran, bought me a Spanish grammar and dictionary, too the back seat, and commenced the study of the Spanish language. We made the trip at easy stages of about twenty-five miles per day, and reached the City of Mexico on the evening of the ninth of August. The trip was one of the longest, most laborious and hazardous of my life, but I will not tax your time or mine with its details, many of which would interest you deeply if I was there to give them to you.

Our reception upon the part of the Government officials here was all that we could have expected or desired. We were invited to an audience with the Emperor at the Palace, the far-famed Halls of the Montezumas. At the time fixed, we called and were most kindly received by the Emperor and Empress, and were assured of their sympathy in our misfortune, and of their earnest hope that we might find homes for ourselves and friends in Mexico. The Empress was our interpreter in the interview. She speaks fluently the French, Spanish, German, and English

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**Gov. Isham Letter...continued**

languages, and is in all respects a great woman.

We overtook at the City of Mexico, Gen. Magruder, Commodore Maury, Gov. Allen, of La.; Judge Perkins, of La., Gove. Reynolds of Missouri, and Gov. Murrah and Gov. Clark of Texas, with many other and lesser Confederate lights. On the 5th of September the Emperor published a decree opening all of Mexico to Immigration and colonization, and Commodore Maury and myself and other Confederates were requested to prepare regulations to accompany the decree, which we did, and which were approved by the Emperor on the twenty seventh. The decree and regulation offer very liberal inducements to immigration among which are a donation of public lands at the rate of six hundred and forty acres to each head of a family, and three hundred and twenty to each single man, a free passage to the country such as are not able to pay their own expenses, freedom from taxation for one year, and from military duty for five years, religious toleration, etc.

Commodore Maury has been appointed Imperial Commissioner of Colonization, which makes his authority in the matter of colonization second only to that of the Emperor. Gen. Price, Judge, Perkins and myself were appointed agents of colonization, and requested to examine the lands lying upon and near the line of railroad, from the City of Mexico to Vera Cruz, for the purpose of determining whether they were suited to American colonization. We are engaged at this time in the discharge of that duty. We find in the vicinity of this place the most beautiful, and all things considered the best agricultural country that I have ever seen. The climate is delightful, never hot, never cold, always temperate, always pleasant. The soil richer and more productive than the best of the prairie lands of Mississippi in the Okalona country, yielding large crops of corn, barley, rice, tobacco, sugar cane and coffee, with all the fruits of the tropics and the best that you ever tasted. You can raise two crops of corn on the same land each year. The usual mode of farming here is a crop of corn and a crop of tobacco, on the same land, the corn ripening always before time to plant tobacco, and ten miles from here, in the direction of the coast, you strike as good a [word obscured] country as can be found in the world.

The most profitable crop here is coffee, you plant about six hundred or seven hundred trees to the acre, it begins to bear at two and produces a full crop at four years old, you can always calculate safely on an average of two pounds to the tree, though there are instances of a tree's bearing as high as twenty-eight pounds. The tree is hardy, and will live for as long as five hundred years. It takes about as much labor to cultivate and put into market as an acre of coffee, as it does an acre of corn in Georgia.

The coffee plantation, with its shade of bananas, figs, oranges, mangos and zapotes [sic], with the walks fringed with pine apple, all in full bearing, is the richest and most beautiful spectacle upon which my eyes have ever rested. I have inspected six hundred and forty acres, about ten miles from here, where I propose to surround myself with a coffee plantation, in the midst of which I will nestle down, constantly inhaling the odors of the rich tropical fruits and gaudy colored and fragrant, tropical flowers, in an atmosphere of perpetual spring, yet turning the eye of the Northwest, you constantly behold the snow capped peaks of Orezriba and the Popocatépetl, from which I can draw my ice at all seasons of the year.

There are about thirty Confederates now here all of whom will locate their lands and commence the work of settlement within a week of ten days.

The place where we begin the first colony was highly improved and in a high state of civilization a hundred years ago. The extensive ruins of what was once magnificent structures show that these Hacienda were highly productive and the homes of wealth, luxury and refinement, but about fifty years since slavery was abolished in the State of Vera Cruz and the proprietors of these magnificent estates left the country with the large fortunes the had amassed. The church seized lands and allowed them to lie idle and go to ruin. The buildings on these places must have cost from one hundred to five hundred thousand dollars. The church held the property for about five years since when it was taken by the Government and the Government now sells it to us for colonization at one dollar per acre in quantities of six hundred and forty acres for each head of a family and twenty dollars each single man on a credit of one, two, three, four and five years. This is the beginning of the first Confederate colony in Mexico. Among those who propose to settle immediately are Gen Price and Gen. Shelley from Missouri, Judge Perkins of Louisiana, and myself. The resources of this country are such as to insure fortune to the energy and industry that has usually characterized our people. The wonder is that they have been permitted to remain undeveloped so long, but this is the most indolent, lazy and worthless population on earth. \* \* \* \* \*

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**Gov. Isham Letter...continued**

Will many people of the Southern States feel inclined to seek new homes or will they follow the example of Lee, Johnston and others? Mexico presents the finest field that I have ever seen for the enterprise of our people, and now that slavery is abolished in the South, hired labor can be much more easily procured here and made more profitable than any part of the United States. I do not propose however to urge or even advise an one to come, I only propose to give them facts and leave them to decide for themselves as I have done for myself, such as feel inclined to come will be received with open arms and cordial welcome. But enough of this.

Where is Forrest, and what is he doing? And where and how is every body else? For I have heard from none of our friends since I left Mississippi.

Give my kind regards to Mrs. Adair, Robbin, Jack and Forrest, and kiss Mary for me, and tell her that it would give me great pleasure to have a romp with her this evening.

Write me fully and do your best at penmanship, so that I may be able to read the greatest part of the letter. I sent you a copy of the *Mexican News*, an English newspaper edited by Gov. Allen, about a month ago. I hope you received it, though there was very little of interest in it, except that it shows the fact that we have started an American newspaper at the City of Mexico. I neglected to say to you that this place is situated on the line of railroad from Vera Cruz to the City of Mexico; seventy miles west of Vera Cruz. The railroad is now in operation to within eighteen miles of this place, and all the distance to the City of Mexico is under contract and the work rapidly progressing. It is a few hours' run by rail from here to Vera Cruz; from Vera Cruz it is three days by steam to New Orleans, and from New Orleans it is three or four days by rail to Atlanta, so you see that we are still neighbors, even if you should remain in Georgia. The road is owned by an English company, but is almost entirely in American hands.

My health is excellent, and I feel that it cannot be otherwise in this charming climate. Direct your letter to me at Cordova, Mexico, and in conclusion, let me beg you to excuse this horrid and disjointed letter, as it was written in the midst of a crowd, half of whom were continually talking to me and compelling me to talk to them.

Very truly your friend,  
ISHAM G. HARRIS

**News from Historic Sites...continued****ROCK CASTLE, HENDERSONVILLE**

*1784 Federal/Georgian style home of Daniel Smith, Tennessee land surveyor*

The Friends of Historic Rock Castle announces the first annual Walter T. Durham Scholarship. Mr. Durham is the Tennessee State Historian and author of several local history books. Sumner County residents in the 11th or 12th grade who plan to study education, history, historic preservation, archaeology or museums are eligible.

**ROCKY MOUNT, PINEY FLATS**

*Long-believed site of Capital of the Territory South of the River Ohio (now Tennessee) from 1790-1792. Museum of living history portraying Tennessee's early territorial history.*

**GRAND OPENING SCHEDULED FOR WYNNEWOOD**

*Martha D. Akins, Director of Historic Sites, Tennessee Historical Commission*

The night of February 5th, 2008 will be forever emblazoned in the minds of Castalian Springs residents. A devastating tornado ripped through the community, leaving behind what looked like a beautiful, priceless vase shattered into a thousand pieces on the floor. Sorting through the mangled debris, qualified professionals and volunteers alike wondered out loud if Wynnewood could ever be restored.

If a job is to be done right, one needs to start with a good foundation. A lot of time, effort, and detail went into preparation. It took seven months for ten parties with different agendas and processes to execute a memorandum of agreement. Next came collecting salvageable materials, discarding debris, making emergency repairs, installing temporary protection, assembling and studying photos, creating detailed drawings, evaluating and scoring contractors, signing more contracts—all this before one construction truck entered the site. In the past year the restoration of Wynnewood (and all of the other buildings and the site as a whole) gathered so much momentum, that those who visited regularly or worked on the site got to the end and wondered with a bit of melancholy, "Where did the time go? Are we really done?" Yes, that project has come to an end, but work still continues as representatives from Bledsoe's Lick Historical Association begins filling the house with treasured antiques. It is starting to feel like home again.

Several smaller projects are now underway. One establishes the Spencer Cabin (aka Bledsoe Cabin #2) into a Visitor Center and creates a new first impression of the site. The project is being prepared so that it can be bid. Another project is an exhibit project being performed by Middle Tennessee State University students in the museum tract of the public history program. Dr. Bren Martin is leading this bright group, and they are creating two different exhibit spaces. In the Visitor Center, exhibits will focus on orienting the visitor to Castalian Springs—prehistory of the area and the Native American culture. In the 1898 dining room, exhibits will focus on the Wynne family to supplement the tour of the main structure. With the exception of the Visitor Center exhibits which is slated to go on through the summer, these smaller projects should be complete by the Grand Opening.

Grand Opening? Yes! Plans are underway for this big, exciting event. In addition to listening to some very important dignitaries, ideas under consideration are having re-enactors and an encampment, music, food vendors, and fun activities for the children. July 4th is a traditional day of celebration at the site, and so it seems fitting that it also serve as the Grand Opening date. To be successful, this event will need donated skills, talents, products, and services. If you would like to help, please contact Martha Akins at [Martha.Akins@tn.gov](mailto:Martha.Akins@tn.gov), and she can direct you to the appropriate Bledsoe's Lick Historical Association member.



# THE HANGING OF MARY, A CIRCUS ELEPHANT

By Thomas G. Burton<sup>1</sup>

East Tennessee State University

Incredible as it seems, late Wednesday afternoon, September 13, 1916, Mary, a circus elephant, was hanged in Erwin, Tennessee.

The day before, in Kingsport, Tennessee, after the daylight performance, Mary had killed Walter “Red” Eldridge, who reportedly joined the “Sparks World-Famous Shows” only two days earlier in his home town of St. Paul, Virginia, because he wanted to be an animal trainer.

According to some reports Eldridge was not Mary’s first victim. One Erwin resident (Bud Jones) who witnessed the hanging states: “She’d killed one man up in Virginia and killed a man in Kingsport.” Another witness of the hanging (James Treadway) says: “She killed one at Kingsport, one at Bristol, and one over there [Erwin]. But I didn’t see that there at Erwin.” Others (Mont Lilly and W.H. Coleman) think she killed two before the one at Kingsport. The number expands in various oral accounts, such as the following (by Kary Gouge): “He took spells that he’d kill ‘em, you know, and that’s made about six or seven that he’d killed.”

In one published account, carried ten days after the event in a Chicago newspaper and illustrated by a 7 x 10 sensational drawing, Mary was reported to have killed seven other men (*The Saturday Blade*, 23 Sept. 1916, p. 1); and the *Johnson City Comet* stated the day following the hanging: “It is said that Mary had killed 18 men” (p. 1). The Ripley’s “Believe It or Not” cartoon of August 29, 1938, numbers the victims as three. On the other hand, another article in the *Johnson City Comet* (14 Sept. 1916, p. 1) quotes Mr. Heron, the press agent for the Sparks shows, as saying: “I have been with the shows for three years and have never known the elephant to lose her temper before.” The *Nashville Banner* (13. Sept. 1916, p. 9) reported similarly: “Murderous Mary, as she was termed by spectators, has been performing...for fifteen years, and this is the first time anyone has come to harm.”



*Execution of Mary the Circus Elephant.*

Mary was billed as “THE LARGEST, LIVING, LAND ANIMAL ON EARTH. 3 INCHES TALLER THAN JUMBO AND WEIGHING OVER 5 TONS.” The *Johnson City Staff* (13 Sept. 1916, p. 3; 14 Sept. 1916, p. 6) reported her to be one of a trained quintette, 30 years old (interestingly only half her life expectancy in captivity), and estimated her loss to the show at \$20,000, another newspaper valued her at \$8,000 (*The Saturday Blade*, 23 Sept. 1916, p. 1).

Her attack on Walter Eldridge was flamboyantly reported by the *Johnson City Staff* as follows: “Suddenly [Mary] collided its trunk vice-like about his [Eldridge’s] body, lifted him ten feet in the air, then dashed him with fury to the ground. Before Eldridge had a chance to reach his feet, the elephant had him pinioned to the ground, and with the full force of her biestly [sic] fury is said to have sunk her giant tusks entirely through his body. The animal then tramped the dying form of Eldridge as if seeking murderous triumph, then with a sudden swing of her massive foot hurled his

body into the crowd”

Twenty years later Mary’s attack is reported quite differently: “The Elephant’s keeper, while in the act of feeding her, walked unsuspectingly between her and the tent wall. For no reason that could be ascertained, Mary became angry and, with a vicious swish of her trunk, landed a fatal blow on his head” (*Johnson City Press-Chronicle*, 16 Aug. 1936, p. 1). (Reasons for Mary’s attack, however, are in circulation. David Hatcher told me that it was commonly said when he was growing up in Erwin that the person Mary killed had once given her a chew of tobacco to eat instead of peanuts and that Mary, keeping the incident in mind over a period of years, took her revenge when she recognized her offender during a parade. Eugene Harris says that another local explanation for Mary’s violent behavior is that she had two abscessed teeth, and the pain incurred from Eldridge’s striking her with a stick drove her into a fury).

W.H. Coleman of Kingsport, who witnessed the event as a youth of 19, described to me Mary’s attack on “Red” Eldridge as follows:

There was a big ditch at that time, run up through Center Street...[an] open ditch that had been put there for the purpose of draining all of Kingsport...And they’d sent these boys to ride the elephants...there was, oh, I don’t know now, seven or eight elephants...and they went down to water them and on the way back each boy had a little stick-like, that was a spear or book in the end of it...And t his big old elephant reach over to get her a watermelon rind, about a half a watermelon somebody eat and just laid it down there; ‘n he did, he took him right around the waist...and threw him against the side of the drink stand and he just knocked the whole side out of it. I guess it killed him, but when he hit the ground the elephant just walked over and set his foot on his head...and blood and brains and stuff just squirted all over the street. [Later Mr. Coleman specifically says

<sup>1</sup>*Tennessee Folklore Society Bulletin*, Vol. 37, no. 1, March, 1971.



## Hanging of Mary...continued

Mary did not gore Eldridge.]

According to Mr. Coleman, Hench Cox who was 65 or 70, came out of the blacksmith shop close by when he heard the elephant “blow” and shot it five times with a 32-20 pistol; the elephant “just doubled up and just groaned and carried on, you never heard the like; he just stooped down and shook all over.” Then, as Mr. Coleman relates: “The crowd kept hollerin’ and sayin’, ‘Let’s kill the elephant, let’s kill him,’ an’ he [the “management” or “owner”] said, ‘People, I’d be perfectly willin’ to kill him, but there’s no way to kill him. There ain’t enough gun enough in this country that he could be killed, there’s no way to kill him.’”

Nevertheless, Mary was quickly brought under control and even performed in the evening show—according to the newspaper, “without having exhibited the slightest indication of ‘bad temper’” (*Johnson City Staff* 13 Sept. 1916, p. 3). Nothing was apparently done by the circus officials at that time to exterminate the elephant; furthermore, Mr. Coleman thinks that they did not plan then to execute Mary and would not have executed her solely for the killing of Eldridge. He bases his opinion on conversation, held some six or seven years after the hanging, with one of the operators of Sparks side shows. The showman told Mr. Coleman that Mary “wouldn’t never been destroyed if he [Mary] hadn’t of come in an ace of destroying the owner...He...come so near of gettin’ him that he said, ‘That’ll be the last of you,’ and just took and had him killed.” In reality, Mr. Coleman thinks, Mary was executed because she was old, mean, and dangerous to handle, not because she had taken a human life. And not, one might add, because of the analysis, seemingly serious, offered by one newspaper: “It is stated that when an elephant kills one or more people they are liable to do the same thing again and at a time that they [sic] keepers are least expecting it” (*Johnson City Staff*, 14 Sept. 1916, p.6).

It is difficult to establish definitely, however, the authority responsible for sentencing Mary to death. The *Johnson City Staff*, the day after the execution reports:

“Not wishing to take any more risks as to the loss of life, the Spark Circus management had Mary...hung and killed” (p. 6). The 1916 December issue of *Popular Mechanics* states (“Vicious Elephant Hanged for Killing Man,” p. 803). Some of the residents of Erwin also place the decision on the state of Tennessee; as one (Mont Lilly) says: “The state of Tennessee preferred charges against [Mary]...They charged her with first degree murder”—or as implied by another (Bud Jones): “They couldn’t take her out of Tennessee, you see, and they had to do somethin’ with her.” Erwinians certainly do not hold their city responsible, as is made perfectly clear by one lady the interest of public safety by whom I do not know, certainly not by anyone here”(from a typed manuscript of an answer to Bert Vincent, furnished by P.O. Likens, Clinchfield Railroad).

At any rate on Wednesday, September 13, the day following Eldridge’s death, the Sparks Circus moved from Kingsport to Erwin, taking Mary with it.

In Erwin, it had rained; and Mary, along with the other elephants helped push the wagons out of the mud; James Treadway described the scene to me as follows: “They come in there and they ‘as a wet spell, rained awful for several days...They shipped them [the animals] in there by train at that time—they wasn’t any trucks then—and the railroad just set ‘em on the sidin’ there and rolled them wagons off...they was mired down, and they couldn’t pull ‘em with horses. And this feller took this elephant down there and she just pushed em’ out with her head.”

Later that day, following the afternoon show, Mary was taken down to the shop yards of the CC & O Railways. Mont Lilly, at that time a 16-year-old relief man on the derrick car crew, gave me the following details of the hanging (he was present that day but not on duty):

They brought those elephants down there, they had four or five of them together. And they had this here Mary...she was bringin’ up the rear. It was just like they was havin’ a parade, holdin’ one another’s tail...These other ones come up...and they stopped. Well, she just cut loose right there...and the show men, they went and put a chain, a small chain around her foot, and chained her to the rail. Then they

backed the wrecker up to her and throwed the big 7/8’ chain around her neck and hoisted her, and she got up about, oh, I’ll say, five or six feet off the ground and the chain around her neck broke. See, they had to pull this chain loose; it broke the smaller chain, and that weakened the other chain. And so, when they got her up about five or six feet from the ground, why it broke.

Bud Jones, the fireman on the 100-ton derrick car that was used to hang Mary, gave me the following details:

They had eight or ten other elephants. They brung ‘em all down there and she seemed to know they ‘as somethin’ wrong someway, you know, and she’d walk off around to one side, you know, and wouldn’t stay hardly with the others a-tall. And finally got her up close enough to throw a chain around her neck. And we picked her up about, well, I’d say about three foot off the ground, and then t he chain broke. And its kind o’addled her when it fell you know. And we quick ‘n’ got another chain and put it around her neck then hooked it before she could get up.

James Treadway told me that Mary “kicked with both feet, one at a time, and that broke the chain.” When the chain broke, he says, “she sat down just like a big rabbit...she hunkered down, and a fellow ran up her back and throwed the cable around her neck and hooked it.” According to Mr. Lilly, it was not two minutes before the circus people had the second chain around Mary’s neck and Sam Harvey, the regular fireman acting as engineer that day, had her hoisted once again: “She kicked a little bit and that was about all; see, that thing choker her to death right quick.”

Incidentally, the absence of the regular engineer of the derrick car. Jeff Stultz, is also a subject that evokes varying explanations. According to Bud Jones, he was replaced that day by Sam Harvey, “a one-eyed feller,” because Stultz was in Roanoke. Another elderly citizen of Erwin (O.C. Hale) told me that Stultz would not hang the elephant because he had to go out at night to wrecks, and he was afraid that having the hanging on his mind would bother him. Columnist Bert Vincent also reports that Stultz refused to hang the elephant (Willard Yarbrough, ed., *The Best Stories of Bert Vincent* [Brazos Press, 1968],

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## Hanging of Mary...continued

p. 146.

Amid the drama of the hanging, however, occurred one incident of comic relief. When the chain broke, some of the spectators yelled out and began to scatter. Jim Coffey, a blind banjo picker over six feet trying to get away. According to Mrs. E.H. Griffith (daughter of S.W. Bondurant the derrick wreckmaster), one man yelled at Coffey, "Can't you see?" Mr. Coffey replied, "No, I haven't seen a lick in over 20 years." The story is a popular one in Erwin; Kary Gouge, for example, says: "Bud [Jones] told me about it a hundred times and laughed about that blind man a-runnin' so fast. He run over everybody to get away I'm there." Not only Mr. Coffey, but also, according to a conversation I had with Mrs. B.O. Bailey, all the other people "got to runnin'"; and, in particular, her son "started to run and scratched his legs all to pieces in the briars."

As the story of Mary's hanging grows in oral tradition, the number of executed also grows. A few area residents hold, as expressed by one (Lanny Phillips), "Not many people know it, but the elephant's two Negro keepers were also hanged with her." This belief may stem from a fusion of the hanging with another incident that occurred in Erwin, the burning on a pile of crossties of a Negro who allegedly abducted a white girl. (The fusion of these two incidents might also explain the belief of some that Mary killed a young girl.)

After Mary's execution and after the pronouncement of her death, supposedly by local physician R.E. Stack, her five-ton corpse had to be disposed of. P. H. Flanary relates, "We...buried him with a steam shovel. I dug the grave after we hung the elephant...and also covered him with a steam shovel." According to Bud Jones she was held swinging about ten minutes before the derrick dropped her in the hole, some four or five hundred feet away from where she was hanged. The site itself, however, is a disputable subject, but according to Mr. Treadway it was "south of the roundhouse, below the tracks where the river [Nolichucky] comes up so far there." The reported length of time Mary was held aloft (before her shame was decently covered) also varies considerably—from a short period of 5, 10, 20 or 30 minutes to a long

period of several hours. After Mary was dropped into her grave, her tusks reportedly were sawed off—according to some (e.g., M.D. Clark) before she was buried, according to others (e.g. Treadway): "They dug down that night and cut her tushes off." With one of the tusks, says Mr. Lilly, "one fellow...made a set of dice."

The details of Mary's burial are also sometimes apparently fused with the burning of the Negro, referred to earlier; in one reminiscence of the burial (by Mrs. B.O. Bailey). Crossties were piled in on top of the elephant and burned, the fire from which could be seen long into the night.

Mrs. Griffith states that "the Associated Press learned of the event and came here [to Erwin] ten days later, had the animal dug up." Mr. Lilly has no recollection of Mary's ever being dug up; however, Chief Engineer Jim Goforth says that a request, long after the hanging, was made by a geological school to exhume the remains, although the project was not attempted.

A photograph of the hanging was made; but the details concerning it are as cloudy as the day on which it was taken. One report says that when Johnny Childers submitted an article entitled, "Vicious Elephant Hanged for Killing Man," published in the 1916 December issue of *Popular Mechanics*, a picture was requested to accompany the article; Childers is quoted as stating: "I got hold of one in Erwin but it was too dim for reproduction. The picture used with the magazine article was a sketch by the magazine artist" (from an unidentified newspaper article contributed by Betty Chandler, Erwin *Record*).

The drawing deserves a brief comment; the following is attributed to Childers himself: "It showed the huge elephants to the track. Standing nearby, alongside a circus tent, was a group of young lady circus bareback riders, using lace handkerchiefs to wipe tears from their eyes as they watched the hanging of the elephant Mary. The artist's conception of what happened was not erroneous. Circus people told me that they all were saddened by the hanging." (Mrs. Monk comments on this attitude and Bert Vincent in his article on the hanging of Mary also refers to the sentiment displayed by the circus folk. He gives the following comment by W. B. Carr, pipe foreman at the CC& O shops who

observed the hanging: "A circus woman must have loved Mary, this elephant, a whole lot. She had ridden her in the circus parades, and had never been afraid of her...This woman... wouldn't come down and see the elephant die. She stayed in a hotel and cried" [p.147.]

Focusing on the photograph again, however, Mrs. Griffith relates: "The hanging occurred between four and five o'clock in the afternoon on a dark and cloudy day, a local photographer by the name of Mitchell, I believe, made a picture of the event but when it was developed it was very dim and he faked the picture of the elephant and my father standing under it an can only existing one of the incident, Mary, unnaturally hanging from the derrick with trunk extended, is suspiciously shaper than her background. (Incidentally, when submitted by Eugene Harris to the editors of *Argosv*, the photo was rejected as "phony.")

There are no available photographs to record the size and reaction of the crowd, but apparently the hanging to them was an extension of the circus spirit. As J.C. Monk, who watched the event from the tipple about 100 yards away, says: "It was excitement, you know...to see the elephant hung." Word was spread and the people gathered from miles around to witness the event. The crowd estimates, however, of the people to whom I talked vary widely. Mr. Lilly states, "I'd say they was, well, Erwin wasn't very big then, but I'd say there was two or three hundred down there at least." Even the women came, Mr. Lilly says: "They had a lot of dead engines—no fire in 'em, you know, just stored down there, engines—and there 'as women...standin' all over the tops of 'em engines to watch that elephant hung." Mr. Monk's estimate of the crowd: "Everybody was excited about it, you know—'n' come down there to watch them hang the elephant. They had a coal tipple down there; I guess the coal tipple was three hundred—four hundred feet long from the ground up to the top of the tipple; and it was covered up with people just as thick as they could stand on that tipple, you know, besides what was on the ground. I'd say they as three thousand people there."

The published estimates of the crowd also vary considerably. The issue of *Popular Mechanics* previously mentioned

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### Hanging of Mary...continued

states, "The hanging was witnessed by a crowd of about 1,500 persons." One recent local journalistic treatment, that of the *East Tennessee Times* (15 Aug. 1969, p. 3) reports: "It appeared as if Erwin's three thousand population and p.3) reports: "It appeared as if Erwin's three thousand population and surrounding country were on the scene." But as early as 1936, the attendance according to one newspaper had grown to "more than 5,000 curiosity—seeking people from all parts of East Tennessee" (*Johnson City Press-Chronicle*, 16 Aug. 1936, p. 1); and the most recent article that I have seen published about the hangings, whoever the victim, a crowd of some 5,000 persons gathered to witness the vengeance reaped" (James Ewing, "Tennessee Tales," *The Tennessee Conservationist*, June 1970, p. 10). Similarly "The Ballad of Muderling Mary" by William E. Mahoney states: "Five thousand gathered in the gloom/to see her hoisted on a boom." (As a point of comparison, it is interesting to note that the *Johnson City Staff* reported that 2000 persons attended the evening performance of the Sparks Show in Johnson City the day following the hanging [15 Sept. 1916, p.1].)

From another point of view the hanging of Mary was a serious matter. Mrs. B.O. Bailey says that the people were quiet: "They's just standing around, just like anybody else, you know, a -watchin'...They just wanted to get rid of that elephant that was killing everybody...Nobody was sorry for it, for it was a-killin' too many people. Bud Jones says that everyone was "very serious," about the hanging; "they was all mighty quiet," but, he says, "the people, most of them, thought she ought to be killed." Mr. Lilly states: "Well, the general attitude was they wanted to see the elephant hung...They, of course, a lot of 'em, thought too that the elephant ought to be killed...they ought to destroy her, you know, for killin' so many people." Similarly, Mr. Monk recalls, "There wasn't much sympathy for old Mary...Most people thought that the elephant ought to be hung -at least I did." Mrs. Griffith goes even further in saying,

"We did not sit in judgment on her fate and I don't believe any of those who witnessed the event felt it was inhumane under the circumstances. She paid for her crimes as anyone else would."

According to local belief, however, hanging was not the only means attempted or at least considered to punish Mary for her crimes. Mr. Treadway says: "They thought about just putting her between that two engines and just mash her to death, and they decided, better not do that, might get somebody hurt." Bud Jones told me: "They shot her eight or ten times with one of these high-powered rifles...There wouldn't a bullet went through the hide, they claim. Now that's what they said over there in Kingsport." Mr. Treadway related to me another incident: "The sheriff though he could shoot her, but he couldn't with a .45. Sheriff Gallahan, I believe, was sheriff at that time. And it 'ad knocked chips out of her hide a little...He shot her six times...He thought he could shoot her in the heart, but that gun wouldn't go through her." Mr. Lilly adds another attempted method: "They tried to electrocute her in Kingsport—they put 44,000 volts to her and she just danced a little bit...And then they decided, well, they'd shoot her and they's afraid to try that—afraid they'd just shoot and maybe make her mad, you know, and she would hurt somebody." Bud Jones also mentions a proposed electrocution, but he says, "They didn't have power enough here to do it." One story that Don Whitlock, a native of Erwin, tells me he has always heard is that the railroad chained Mary to the rail and transferred the power from the turntable at the roundhouse to the rail in an unsuccessful attempt to electrocute her.

Regardless of the other means of execution attempted, however, or of what other course of action might have been taken or of why what took place occurred, late Wednesday afternoon, September 13, 1916, Mary, a circus elephant, was hanged in Erwin, Tennessee—an incredible incident that has become part of the oral and written tradition of the surrounding area.

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### Tennessee Potteries...continued

from Pennsylvania, Virginia, and North Carolina reflect the general migration pattern of the state. The large concentration of stoneware potteries in DeKalb, Putnam, and White counties in Middle Tennessee demonstrates the dominance of the extended families of Andrew Lefever and other early regional potters and shows how pottery traditions were passed down through several generations of potters. Four potters from Greene County who were hanged for treason for burning the Lick Creek Railroad Bridge in late 1861 were part of a larger effort by Union supporters in East Tennessee to disrupt Confederate supply lines early in the war. The five potters who died in Memphis during the 1878 Yellow Fever epidemic mirror the tragedies felt by the entire city trying to survive an unseen killer. TVA's efforts to bring new jobs into the Tennessee Valley by conducting ceramic research experiments using newly developed electric kilns was part of TVA's larger mandate for economic development. All of these stories and more are detailed in this publication.

*Tennessee Potteries, Pots, and Potters* will appeal to people with a wide-range of interests including archaeologists, ceramic collectors, genealogists, and local history enthusiasts. Family historians will benefit from the wealth of biographical and genealogical information on each of the potters. Historic photographs included for many of the potters help take the research beyond the pots and broken pot sherds into a more personal direction. This book establishes a compelling context that allows readers to appreciate the talents of the potters and the beauty of their pots. A bonus feature of this publication is an included CD in PDF format that is word searchable and shows all 158 color images. This CD allows the entire text and all images to be downloaded onto computers, smart phones, and electronic tables.

#### Available from:

Tennessee Department of Environment & Conservation, Map & Publication Sales Office, 13th Floor, L & C Tower, 401 Church St., Nashville, TN 37243-0445, phone (615) 532-1516. Price \$35 for both volumes (plus \$10 for postage and handling / \$45 total - payable to "State of Tennessee").



## War Commission's Report...continued

number of major battles in Middle Tennessee, including the Battle of Franklin, The Battle of Stones River, and the Battle at Spring Hill. From October 1867 to January 1868 these and other soldiers killed in the Middle Tennessee area were exhumed and reburied at the Nashville National Cemetery located in North Nashville. Recently, an archivist was able to locate these official exhumation records on microfilm at the National Archives. These records not only detail where a soldier was exhumed and later reburied, but also other important data, including where the soldier had been killed and his unit affiliation. Most critically, these government records definitively connect the names of the soldiers interned in the Nashville National Cemetery with the numbered gravesite and the location of the original burial.

When fully transcribed, these records will be made available to the public online via the Tennessee State Library and Archive's (TSLA) website. Upon completion of this project, researchers will finally have a complete picture of Civil War burials in Nashville: These government records provide the only true and complete record of soldier's names, unit affiliation, original burial location, and the number of their National Cemetery interment.

## "LOOKING BACK PROJECT": CIVIL WAR MEMORABILIA TO BE DIGITALLY PRESERVED

"Looking Back: The Civil War in Tennessee", is a traveling event made possible by the Tennessee State Library and Archives (TSLA). Their goal is to digitize and preserve Tennessee's unrecorded Civil War memorabilia. In order to accomplish this TSLA is encouraging local communities to bring their treasured artifacts to Looking Back events being scheduled across the state. Photos, documents, uniforms, anything from the era, will be digitized and placed on the TSLA web site preserving the information for generations to come.

A team of archivists, conservators, and military artifact experts (Fred Prouty of the Tennessee Wars Commission and Ron Westfall of the Tennessee State Museum being on hand at the Cookeville History Museum event) are crossing the state with the popular program. Looking back most recently appeared in Cookeville in conjunction with the state's second sesquicentennial signature event, "The First Shots of Tennessee's Civil War," which took place September 6-7 at Tennessee Tech University.

## THREE NEW CIVIL WAR PROPERTIES APPROVED FOR STATE ACQUISITION

Tennessee Wars Commission director of programs Fred Prouty, recently

appeared before the State Land Acquisition Commission board to present a request for state assistance to acquire three endangered battlefield properties. Those battlefield sites are located at Parkers Crossroads Battlefield in Henderson County, Davis Bridge Battlefield in Hardeman and McNairy Counties, and property adjacent to the Fort Donelson National Military Park in Dover Tennessee. These properties were approved for purchase and will be held by the state as conservation easements. With the purchase of these important battlefield sites the Wars Commission has now gone beyond our current 7,000 acre total of preserved and interpreted battlefield properties in Tennessee since the Wars Commissions first year in 1995. We again thank our preservation partners for their efforts, contributions and dedication to saving our countries Hallowed Grounds for future generations to come, as long as there is an America.

Your thoughts and comments are welcome.

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