



# THE COURIER



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TENNESSEE HISTORICAL COMMISSION, NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

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## THC HELPS SAVE WAR OF 1812 SITE

In October of 1813, hundreds of citizens from what was then known as the Western Division of Tennessee (today's Middle Tennessee) mustered and trained at a site along the Elk River near the tiny new community of Fayetteville in preparation for war. Following the Massacre at Ft. Mims in what is now Alabama on August 30, 1813, the call for volunteers was raised to fight the British-allied "Red Stick" Creeks. Named Camp Blount for Gov. Willie Blount, Andrew Jackson, David Crockett, John Coffee, future Tennessee Governor William Carroll and others spent time at the site. Training occurred for several months, and the military campaign that began with the march from Camp Blount culminated in the Battle of Horseshoe Bend in March, 1814, where the Creeks were defeated. In October, 38.6 acres of the former encampment was purchased by the State of Tennessee to be preserved forever. The sale was accomplished thanks to combined funding from THC and the State Lands Acquisition Fund. The THC provided \$250,000 from a special one-time appropriation, while the State Lands Acquisition Fund provided \$228,979. "To our knowledge, this is the only War of 1812 site in the nation that has been saved and preserved in conjunction with the 200th anniversary of the commemoration of the War of 1812," said THC Executive Director Patrick McIntyre. Retired Tennessee Wars Commission Program director Fred Prouty -- who was instrumental in guiding the acquisition effort -- noted that the site is where the Volunteer State got its nickname. Dr. Farris Beasley of Fayetteville, and Myers Brown, Chair of the Tennessee War of 1812 Bicentennial Commission, are among others who played key roles in preserving the site.

On December 15, 2015, McIntyre and Fayetteville mayor Jon Law signed the primary caretaker agreement at City Hall



*Fayetteville Mayor May Jon Law (seated) and THC Executive Director Patrick McIntyre (fourth from right) signed a primary caretaker agreement for the City of Fayetteville to administer the historic War of 1812-era Camp Blount site. Retired Tennessee Wars Commission Programs Director Fred Prouty is fifth from right*

in Fayetteville. The City will manage the property, in a similar arrangement that the THC has with Parkers Crossroads for the Parkers Crossroad Battlefield. As a city-managed park, Camp Blount will eventually include trails that tie into the City's existing greenway

system. In an additional commitment to the property's development for heritage tourism, the Tennessee Wars Commission is providing a \$57,000 grant to the City of Fayetteville for the design of a trail with historic interpretive panels.

## NEW COMMISSION MEMBER



Gov. Bill Haslam has recently appointed Lucy W. Lee of Lebanon to the Tennessee Historical Commission. A native of Maryville, and a graduate of the University of Tennessee-Knoxville, Mrs. Lee was the first executive director of Leadership Wilson. From 2007 to 2012, she was an adjunct professor at Cumberland University. Mrs. Lee spent 13 years as a real estate title examiner. In addition, Lee worked at the Tennessee Historical Commission for four years in the 1970s. Her awards include The Mayor's Community Spirit Leadership Award, the Outstanding Tennessee Leadership Educator Award, Wilsonian of the Year, and the Founder's Award from the Tennessee Association of Community Leadership. Active in Rotary, she is a past president of the Lebanon Rotary Club and is a Paul Harris Fellow. She and her husband Bob have two daughters and five grandchildren.

The Tennessee Historical Commission will meet at 9:00 a.m. at the Historic Jubilee Hall (Appleton Room) on Friday, February 19, 2016.



## The National Register of Historic Places

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

Bethel Confederate Cemetery and Winstead Cottage, Knox County  
Chevy Chase House and First Presbyterian Church Complex, Madison County  
English Mountain Fire Lookout Tower, Cocke County  
Kettlefoot Fire Lookout Tower, Johnson County

The following three entries have been removed from the National Register:

Central High School, Obion County  
Fort Nashboro, Davidson County  
Spencer Buford House, Williamson County

There are now **2,142** entries in the National Register from Tennessee including **281** districts for a total of **42,579** resources now listed.

## In Memoriam

Tennessee Historical Commission member **Sherry Kilgore** of Charlotte died on September 24, 2015 as a result of injuries suffered in an automobile accident. Mrs. Kilgore, who grew up in San Benito, Texas, was 77 years old. Appointed to the Commission in 2010, Kilgore had served on the staff of the THC and ran the State Historic Sites program from 1985 to 1994. She had also served on the Charlotte City Council and Charlotte Planning Commission, and was active in many historic preservation and history projects, such as the restoration of the Hotel Halbrook State Historic Site in Dickson. As a member of the Commission's Historic Sites Committee and a career historic preservation professional, Kilgore was respected as a knowledgeable and passionate advocate for the state sites. The Commission passed a resolution honoring her memory at their October meeting in Jonesborough.

Former Commission member **Theodore Bradford "Tim" Sloan** of Covington died on January 14, 2016, at the age of 78. Mr. Sloan was appointed to the THC in 2009, and served until 2014. Prior to his service on the THC, Mr. Sloan was an enthusiastic and devoted board member of the Tennessee Preservation Trust. He was also a former member of the Tennessee State Museum Board. A banker by profession, over the course of his career Sloan had held office as a Covington alderman and as a Tipton County commissioner. He was well-known his commitment to many civic causes, and he was responsible for getting several buildings in his area listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

## Two Longtime Staff Members Depart

In January, Steve Rogers and Martha Akins, two highly respected staff members, left the THC. Rogers, a Historic Preservation Supervisor, who started in the Tennessee Division of Archaeology in 1976 transferred to the Commission in 1978, retired after over 39 years of dedicated state service. Akins, who ran the State Historic Sites Program, resigned her position to become the Director of Historic Facilities for Vizcaya, a National Historic Landmark museum property in Miami, FL.

Originally from Highland, Illinois, Rogers oversaw the modernization of the survey program for the Commission. During his tenure, thousands of historic properties across the state were recorded. Rogers also supervised the ongoing scanning of survey files into a GIS format. A recognized expert on Tennessee pottery, in 2011 Rogers co-authored *Tennessee Potteries, Pots, and Potters, 1790s to 1950* with Sam Smith of the Division of Tennessee Archaeology. Rogers and his wife Ethel are long-time residents of Franklin.

A native of Brownsville, TN, Martha Akins initially joined the THC in 2000 to run the State Historic Sites Program. She left in 2002, and returned in January, 2010 to assume the same position. During her most recent tenure at the THC, Akins oversaw over \$10 million in capital projects. Akins' duties included shepherding the bulk of the restoration project at the tornado-damaged Wynnewood State Historic Site in Castalian Springs, which reopened in 2012, as well as the restoration of Sabine Hill and Hawthorne Hill, the two newest state sites. The \$550,000 project she helped lead at Burra Burra Mine State Historic Site in Ducktown, which was the first major restoration for the site since the state acquired the property in 1988. Akins led the development of management agreements with the state sites and helped design and implement standardized signage for the properties.

The THC wishes Rogers and Akins well in their future endeavors, and expresses gratitude for the service and dedication of these individuals.

## Caroline C. Eller Joins THC Staff



Caroline C. Eller

Caroline C. Eller joined the staff of the National Register program in December, 2015. She is a Nashville native who grew up in Charlotte, North Carolina and has resided throughout the southeast. She earned a Bachelor of Arts in Historic Preservation and Community Planning from the College of Charleston, South Carolina in 2007. In 2011, Ms. Eller earned a Master of Fine Arts from the Savannah College of Art and Design, where she authored a thesis entitled "Mid-City New Orleans after Katrina: A Model for Post-Disaster Preservation and Resilience." Her previous work experience includes a position as the Historic Preservation Planner for the 16-county East Tennessee Development District, technical advisor for the East Tennessee Preservation Alliance, and volunteer positions with Historic Charlotte Inc. and Historic Savannah Foundation. In her free time, she enjoys hiking, kayaking, yoga and the occasional skydive.



# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES NEWS

By Caroline Eller

## Four Tennessee Sites Added to the National Register of Historic Places

### English Mountain Fire Lookout Tower

The English Mountain Fire Lookout Tower, located at an elevation of 3,629 feet in Cocke County, was built circa 1934 by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). Constructed with a truss frame of galvanized steel from the Carnegie Steel Company, the tower is sixty feet in height. Atop the six-story frame sits a seven-foot-square observation room that provides unobstructed 360° panoramic views of the encompassing rugged landscape.



*English Mountain Fire Lookout Tower*

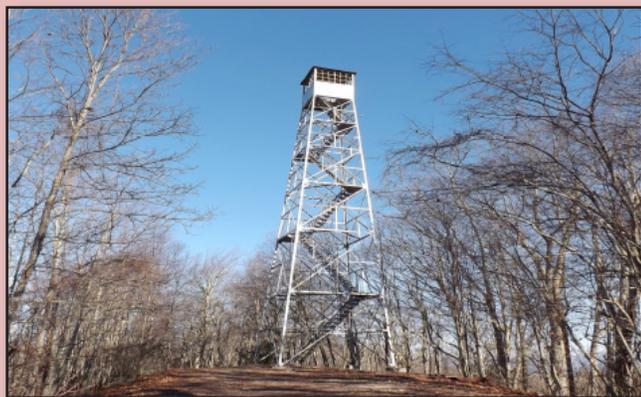
Though no manufacturer's mark has yet been discovered on the tower, the design appears to be an Aermotor MC-39 type, named for a Chicago company that was the lead producer of these structures in the early 20th century. Already a successful windmill manufacturer, the Aermotor Company modified those designs and topped them instead with viewing

cabs for lookout purposes. Forest management and fire control became an increased priority under the Tennessee Division of Forestry beginning in the early 1930s. The English Mountain Fire Lookout Tower is one of many that were constructed in Tennessee during this time, mostly built by the CCC.

The property, which has a period of significance of 1934-1965, includes the fire lookout tower, a 1950s storage shed and radio equipment building, 1960s utility and storage buildings, and two modern communications towers.

*The National Register nomination for the English Mountain Fire Lookout Tower was prepared by Sr. Preservation Planner Ted Karpynek, Preservation Planner Meghan Weaver, and Historian David Sprouse of Tennessee Valley Archaeology Research.*

### Kettlefoot Fire Lookout Tower



*Kettlefoot Fire Lookout Tower*

Constructed in 1936 by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), the Kettlefoot Fire Lookout Tower is located in Johnson County within the Cherokee National Forest. The 60-foot-tall, steel frame tower is positioned at an elevation of 3,889 feet and provides 360° panoramic views from its square observation cab.

Carnegie Steel Company markings can be found on the tower, consistent with other similar resources that were produced by the Pennsylvania-based manufacturer. The design appears to be an Aermotor Type MC-39, named after a Chicago company known for windmill production in the early twentieth century.

An open steel staircase comprised of ninety-six wood plank treads ascends the tower in an alternating dogleg pattern, culminating at the base of the observation cab, the interior of which is accessed via trap door.

The property, which has a period of significance of 1936-1965, includes the tower and a circa 1960 concrete aerial identification marker that reads "C-3." Located on Doe Mountain, the tower retains its original

design features and although any original auxiliary structures have been removed, the property's historic setting has generally been preserved. The tower was last used for fire detection efforts in the 1970s, after which forestry staff became more dependent on 911 reports and fire-spotting planes

*The National Register nomination for the Kettlefoot Fire Lookout Tower was prepared by Sr. Preservation Planner Ted Karpynek, Preservation Planner Meghan Weaver, and Historian David Sprouse of Tennessee Valley Archaeology Research.*



*Panoramic view from Kettlefoot Fire Lookout Tower Observation Cab*



# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES NEWS

By Caroline Eller

## Four Tennessee Sites Added to the National Register of Historic Places

### Chevy Chase House and First Presbyterian Church Complex

This Madison County property, located north of Jackson city center, includes the 1915 Classical Revival Chevy Chase House, Presbyterian Church and carillon (1953-1957), educational building (1955-1958), gymnasium (1996), and historic gates and setting. The residence, built for Clarence and Sally Pigford, was deeded to the Church in 1951, with a stipulation that a carillon would be constructed and the house would not be used for residential purposes.



*Chevy Chase House, Madison County*

Resplendent original features exist on the Chevy Chase house, including an open two-story front entry porch with fluted classic Corinthian columns, heavy entablature with dentil cornice and block modillions, and decorative concrete lion and urn elements on the entry steps. Assorted fenestration details add to the distinguished character of the house, including arched French doors with keystones, a Palladian window and gabled dormers. Geometric muntin designs are found in the sidelights, transoms and a second-level balcony door. Balustrades on the second-story balconies echo the geometric patterns seen elsewhere on the façade.



*Grand, Original Wood Staircase, Chevy Chase House*

The interior of the Chevy Chase house is equally impressive, especially on the main floor. The foyer houses the grand, original wood staircase with round newel posts and both rope and plain balusters. At the top of the first flight of stairs, a half-round void in the second floor provides visual access to the landing from the foyer. A wall of encased Art Deco stained glass windows illuminate the landing with natural light and highlight ornate fleuron and picture moldings in the upstairs central hallway.

Primary rooms in the main house include a service room, sitting room, dining room, sunroom and buffet room. The main level also contains a full commercial kitchen which connects via a swinging door to the Youth Activities Building. Additional historic features in the house include pocket doors, decorative

hand-painted wallpaper, elaborate crystal chandeliers, and egg-and-dart moldings.

*Half-round Void, Second Floor, Chevy Chase House, Providing Visual Access to the Landing from the Foyer.*



### First Presbyterian Church Complex



*First Presbyterian Church, Jackson, Tennessee*

Constructed between 1956 and 1957, the First Presbyterian Church sanctuary is a brick, cross-gabled building that was integrated into the existing carillon on site. On the Highland Avenue-facing façade, the church's two-story pedimented entrance is an example of the classical distyle (or distyle-in-antis) form. Classical Revival design reflects the congregation's continued usage of this type of design in ecclesiastical architecture. On the façade, columns and pilasters have a simplified Corinthian column with a papyriform. A pair of paneled wood doors with transom and stone surround leads to the interior space; above this entry is a large broken pediment with urn motif.

Just inside, the vestibule contains birch wood floors laid east to west and a tray ceiling with moldings and a brass chandelier. Two sets of stairs provide access to the organ loft and carillon. The carillon lobby holds a small "heritage room" that showcases historic artifacts and musical instruments including an old organ.

Inside the expansive sanctuary, simple yet elegant details include large, square columns and a vaulted ceiling. The Pilcher pipe organ was installed in 1956, after being relocated from a downtown church. A modest secondary chapel and a music room are also on the first level. The loft section overlooks the sanctuary and offers access to the carillon via a metal spiral staircase.

Inside the expansive sanctuary, simple yet elegant details include large, square columns and a vaulted ceiling. The Pilcher pipe organ was installed in 1956, after being relocated from a downtown church. A modest secondary chapel and a music room are also on the first level. The loft section overlooks the sanctuary and offers access to the carillon via a metal spiral staircase.



*Interior of the First Presbyterian Church*

*The National Register nomination for the Chevy Chase House and First Presbyterian Church Complex was prepared by Renee Tavares with the Southwest Tennessee Development District and First Presbyterian Church members Alice Catherine Carls and Benita Brown.*



# PUBLICATIONS TO NOTE

By Linda T. Wynn

Assistant Director for State Programs & Publications Editor

Publications of Louisiana State University Press, 338 Johnston Hall, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70803 include:

*New Directions in Slavery Studies: Commodification, Community, and Comparison*, edited by Jeff Forret and Christine E. Sears is a compilation of twelve essays that suggests the field of slavery studies, is a subfield of American history, is alive and well, with new insights. The twelve contributors chart the contours of current scholarship in the field of slavery studies, highlighting three of the discipline's major themes—commodification, community, and comparison—and indicating paths for future inquiry. From the coastwise domestic slave trade in international context to the practice of slave mortgaging to the issuing of insurance policies on slaves, several essays reveal how southern whites treated slaves as a form of capital to be transferred or protected. Essays in the final section discuss scholarship on comparative slavery, contrasting American slavery with similar, less restrictive practices in Brazil and North Africa. Forret, a professor of history at Lamar University, is the author of *Race Relations at the Margins: Slaves and Poor Whites in the Antebellum Southern Countryside*. Co-editor Sears is associate professor of history at the University of Alabama at Huntsville, is the author of *American Slaves and African Masters: Algiers and the Western Sahara, 1776–1820*. They and the twelve contributors to *New Directions in Slavery Studies* provide the reader with new examinations of the lives and histories of enslaved people in the United States. Their analyses of the institution of slavery is a critical contribution to the historical understanding and context on this significant aspect of American history. **Cloth, \$47.00.**

Another work published by LSUP is Deborah E. Barker's *Reconstructing Violence: The Southern Rape Complex in Film and Literature*. Barker, a professor of English at the University of Mississippi, is the author of *Aesthetics and Gender in American Literature: The Portrait of the Woman Artist* and the coeditor, with Kathryn McKee, of *American Cinema and the Southern Imaginary*. The author explores the ongoing legacy of the "southern rape complex" in American film. Beginning with D. W. Griffith's infamous *Birth of a Nation*, Barker demonstrates how the tropes and imagery of the southern rape complex continue to assert themselves across a multitude of genres, time periods, and stylistic modes. Drawing from the French philosopher Gilles Deleuze, who, from the early 1960s until his death, wrote influentially on philosophy, literature, film, and fine arts, Barker examines plot, dialogue, and camera technique as she considers several films: *The Story of Temple Drake* (1933), *Sanctuary* (1958), *Touch of Evil* (1958), *To Kill a Mockingbird* (1962), and *Cape Fear* (1962). Placing this body of analysis in the context of the historical periods when these films appeared and the literary sources on which they are based, Barker reveals the protean power of cinematic racialized violence amid the shifting cultural and political landscapes of the South and the nation and how it configured race, class, and gender across the decades. By focusing on familiar literary and cinematic texts—each produced or set during moments of national crisis such as the Great Depression or the civil rights movement—Barker's *Reconstructing Violence* offers fresh insights into the anxiety that has underpinned sexual and racial violence in cinematic representations of the South. **Cloth, \$47.50.**

Publications of the History Press, Charleston, South Carolina 29403, [www.historypress.net](http://www.historypress.net) include:

*Hidden History of Tennessee Politics* by James B. Jones, Jr. uses a common theme that while some events and personalities do not have the "grandeur of celebrated events or personalities. . . [they do have] a dignity of their own, . . . being they have been obscured by almost singular attention to big events in 'the progressive line' of history." Dr. Jones, author of *The Hidden History of Civil War Tennessee*, and the public historian on the staff of the Tennessee Historical Commission/State Historic Preservation Office in Nashville, Tennessee, fills in parts of empty spaces that allows readers to have a better understanding of the state's past. The general and collegiate readers will enjoy the topics in this slim 140 page book, including: the story of the Lost State of Franklin; the adventurism of William Walker; the election of 1828 that propelled Andrew Jackson to the White House; the story of "Franklandia and Jacksoniana;" the disputed election of 1894; a rare look at newspaper cartoons in 1887; the story of Kate Bradford, the first woman to run for election for governor in Tennessee; the fight against the 19th Amendment; the editorial cartoons of James P. Alley; and, a narrative covering Myles Horton and the history of the Highlander School. An enlightening book, *Hidden History of Tennessee Politics* traverses the meanderings of Tennessee's political heritage. **Paper, \$21.99.**

Publications of the University of North Carolina Press, 116 S Boundary St., Chapel Hill, North Carolina 27514 include:

*The World the Civil War Made*, edited by Gregory P. Downs, associate professor of history at City College of New York and Kate Masur, associate professor of history at Northwestern University. In an expansive reimagining of post-Civil War America, the thirteen essays in this volume explore the profound changes not only in the South but also in the Southwest, in the Great Plains, and abroad. Resisting the tendency to use Reconstruction as a catchall, the contributors instead present diverse histories of a postwar nation that stubbornly refused to adopt a unified ideology and remained violently in flux. Portraying the social and political landscape of postbellum America writ large, this volume demonstrates that by breaking the boundaries of region and race and moving past existing critical frameworks, the reader can appreciate more fully the competing and often contradictory ideas about freedom and equality that continued to define the United States and its place in the nineteenth-century world. **Paper, \$29.95.**

Another work published by the University of North Carolina Press is Elaine Frantz Parsons' *Ku-Klux: The Birth of the Klan during Reconstruction*. The first comprehensive study of the nineteenth-century Ku Klux Klan since the 1970s, *Ku-Klux The World the Civil War Made* pinpoints the group's rise with amazing perspicacity. Chroniclers have traced the origins of the Klan to Pulaski, Tennessee, in 1866, but the details behind the group's beginning have remained vague. By analyzing the earliest descriptions of the Klan, Parsons reveals that it was only as reports of the Tennessee Klan's mysterious and menacing activities

**Publications to Note, continued on page 7**



*Officials at the unveiling of the Barretville marker; left to right: Paul M. Matthews, Tennessee Historical Commission, State Senate Majority Leader Mark Norris, Shelby County Mayor Mark Luttrell, Shelby County Commissioner Terry Roland, Tennessee Department of Tourist Development Director Lee Curtis, and Dr. Curt Fields, Chairman of the Shelby County Historical Commission. Dr. Fields spoke in the character and dress of General Ulysses S. Grant*



## Barretville Historic Civil War Trail Marker Dedicated

By Paul M. Matthews, Tennessee Historical Commissioner

The April 8, 1863 raid led by Colonel Fielding Hurst (USA) at Barretville, in the northeast corner of Shelby County, Tennessee, was commemorated on June 26, 2015, at a program featuring the unveiling of a Tennessee Civil War Trails marker focused on that event.

Approximately 80 people, including several THC commission members and staff, gathered first at the Patriot Bank Building in Barretville. Making brief remarks there were Tennessee State Senate Majority Leader Mark Norris; Shelby County Mayor Mark Luttrell; Shelby County Commissioner Terry Roland; Lee Curtis, Director of Program Development for the Tennessee Department of Tourist Development; THC Chairman Dr. Reavis Mitchell; West Tennessee Historical Society President Dr. Ed Frank; Rosemark Civic Club President Trip Jones; Molly Hampton of the Rosemark Garden Club; U.S. District Judge Jon McCalla, President of Historic Archives of Rosemark and Environs; and William Gotten, President of the Descendants of Early Settlers of Shelby and Adjoining Counties. The primary presentations were by Dr. Doug Cupples, who spoke on the context of the raid, and Dr. Curt Fields, who, in the character and dress of General Ulysses S. Grant (USA), gave Grant's views on his subordinate and the leader of the raid, Colonel Hurst.

Following those talks, three youngsters, Louise Pietrangelo and Dalton and Camryn Harrison, unveiled the marker, which is situated on the Barret Farm, a Tennessee Century Farm owed by the same family, and in continuous cultivation, for over 150 years. The current owners are Paul and Roberta Matthews.

With temperatures approaching 100 degrees, guests quickly moved from the unveiling to a reception hosted by the Rosemark Garden Club in the Board Room of the Barretville Bank & Trust Company Building.

During the winter of 1862-63, confederate troops, including the First Tennessee Partisan Rangers (part of the 12th Tennessee Cavalry Regiment), successfully attacked Federal troops in a series of skirmishes in southwest Tennessee. With the goal of deterring such strikes, Union cavalry from Memphis, Jackson, and Fort Pillow prepared to converge on the Rangers. Recognizing that they could not withstand such a massive force, the Rangers temporarily dispersed, with various groups spreading out over the countryside. A Ranger detachment comprised of Captain (later Colonel) John Uriah Green, Captain James M. Barret, Corporal William Sanford, Dr. Christopher William Dickson, and John Thompson eluded Union patrols and wintered in the area of northeast Shelby County known as Big Creek Bottom (See historic map on page 8.)

On the evening of April 8, Green and his comrades went to Anthony Barret's farm in the community of Barretville to obtain food for themselves and their horses. A Union regiment led by the Colonel Fielding Hurst appeared suddenly and captured all of the Confederates except Thompson. Before surrendering, Green hid his pistol in the mattress of a bed at the Barret home. Later that night, Green and Hurst shared that very bed. Hurst did not discover the pistol, perhaps because before retiring they procured a canteen of whiskey, and, according to

**Trail Marker, continued on page 8**

**Publications to Note, continued from page 5**

began circulating in northern newspapers that whites enthusiastically formed their own Klan groups throughout the South. The spread of the Klan was thus intimately connected with the politics and mass media of the North. Parsons, associate professor of history at Duquesne University, sheds new light on the ideas that motivated the Klan. She explores Klansmen's appropriation of images and language from northern urban forms such as minstrelsy, burlesque, and the business culture. While the Klan sought to retain the prewar racial order, the figure of the Ku-Klux became a joint creation of northern popular cultural entrepreneurs and southern whites seeking, perversely and violently, to modernize the South. Innovative and packed with fresh insight, Parsons' book offers the definitive account of the rise of the Ku Klux Klan during Reconstruction. **Cloth, \$34.95.**

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

*People of the Upper Cumberland: Achievements and Contradiction*, edited by Michael E. Birdwell and W. Calvin Dickinson is a work unified by geography and themes of tradition and progress. The essays in this anthology present a complex view of the Upper Cumberland area of Tennessee and Kentucky. The contributors explore everything from early folk medicine practices to the changing roles of women in the Upper Cumberland, to rarely discussed African American lifeways in the area. The result is an astonishingly fresh contribution to studies of the Upper Cumberland area. Other essays include the relatively unknown history of American Indians in the region, followed history of boating and river professions on the Cumberland River. The Republican politics of the Kentucky section of the Upper Cumberland is illuminated, while a first-of-its-kind look at the early careers of distinguished Tennesseans Cordell Hull and John Gore are covered. Equally fresh is the examination of the career of Congressman Joe L. Evins. There is an in-depth essay on John Catron, the Upper Cumberland's first United States' Supreme Court justice. Other essays cover Champ Ferguson, the history of moonshine, the superstitions faced by early Upper Cumberland medical professionals. Additionally, an essay explores the relationship between composer Charles Faulkner Bryan and his gifted African American pupil J. Robert Bradley during the Jim Crow era. The last essays in this collection discusses race relations in the Upper Cumberland. Birdwell, a professor of history at Tennessee Technological University and Dickinson, an emeritus professor of history at the same university, provides an expansive view of one of

the most understudied regions of the Volunteer State. A significant addition to Tennessee history, *People of the Upper Cumberland* will prove insightful for students and academics with interdisciplinary and cross-historical interests. **Cloth, \$54.95.**

*In the Shadow of Boone and Crockett: Race, Culture, and the Politics of Representation in the Upper South* by Ian C. Hartman. Extending from the southern Appalachians through the rolling hills of Kentucky and Tennessee to the Ozarks of Arkansas and Missouri, the upland South emerged in American lore as the setting where Daniel Boone, David Crockett, and other rugged frontiersmen forged a modern nation and headed west to become the progenitors of what some viewed as a new and superior "American race." Others, however, saw this region as the breeding ground of poor, debased whites—the "hillbillies" and "white trash" of popular stereotypes. These conflicting identities have long dominated public discourse about the region, as well as fostered a deep fascination with it. In this compelling study, part political and part cultural history, Hartman, an assistant professor of history at the University of Alaska Anchorage, probes the late-nineteenth-century context from which this paradox arose and the array of personalities, expressions, and policies that sought to resolve it—or at least make sense of it—in the decades that followed. He begins by investigating the writings of "race theorists" including president Theodore Roosevelt, whose multivolume *The Winning of the West* (1889–96) furthered the tale of a heroic and distinctly American stock who, "with axe and rifle," conquered a continent. Hartman relates these myths to the rise of the early-twentieth-century eugenics movement, which sought to regenerate and purify a once proud but now impoverished and degraded people through policies that included forced sterilization to weed out "imbeciles." Hartman goes on to showcase the surprising ways in which the contradictory identity of the upland South affected broader national debates about imperialism, crime and punishment, poverty and inequality, and the growth and decline of the postwar welfare state.

Whether considering the racial implications of a 1930s Appalachian folk festival, the stereotypical but often sympathetic portrayals of rural southerners in sitcoms like *The Beverly Hillbillies* and *The Andy Griffith Show*, or the shifting perceptions of President Lyndon B. Johnson's War on Poverty, *In the Shadow of Boone and Crockett* is a consistently provocative book that invites readers to ponder a fresh set of ideas about America's "race history" that have shown remarkable traction for more than a century. **Cloth, \$49.95.**



**Published by the  
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2941 Lebanon Road  
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**Dr. Reavis Mitchell, Chairman  
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Editor, The Courier  
Linda T. Wynn, Assistant Director of  
State Programs and Publications Editor**

**Public Comment Solicited**

The Tennessee Historical Commission is again soliciting public comment and advice on its administration of the National Historic Preservation Act. Especially, we are seeking input on such matters as geographic areas or classes of properties which should be a priority for survey and/or registration efforts, criteria and priorities which should be established for restoration grants, and ways and means through which local efforts at preservation of historic properties can be most effectively assisted. Comments and advice on other areas and issues of a more general nature are also encouraged. Activities carried out by the Commission under the mandate of the Act include efforts to survey and inventory potentially-historic properties across the state and to nominate the most significant to the National Register of Historic Places. Other activities involve programs to protect and preserve properties once they are identified by reviewing Federal projects to determine if they will adversely affect historic properties and wish to earn the investment tax credits which are available; awarding and administering grants for the restoration of National Register properties; and providing technical assistance and advice to local governments which are attempting to establish local programs and ordinances to protect historic properties. Besides the restoration grants program, some of these activities are carried out in part by the provision of grant support to local groups and agencies. These grant funds are federal funds which are appropriated under the authority of the National Historic Preservation Act to assist states in carrying out the purposes of the Act. The comments received will be used to structure the annual application to the National Park Service for these funds. The Tennessee Historical Commission expects to solicit applications for grants-in-aid in June of this year for the 2015 Fiscal Year (10/01/2014-9/30/2015). The public input and advice which we are soliciting now will help to set both general office objectives and to establish priorities and criteria for the review of grant applications. Comments are requested by April 15, 2014, and may be addressed to Claudette Stager, Assistant Director for National Register Programs, Tennessee Historical Commission, 2941 Lebanon Road, Nashville, Tennessee 37243-0442.

This program receives Federal funds from the National Park Service. Regulations of the U.S. Department of the Interior strictly prohibit unlawful discrimination in departmental federally assisted programs on the basis of race, color, national origin, age or disability. Any person who believes he or she has been discriminated against in any program, activity or facility operated by a recipient of Federal assistance should write to: Director, Equal Opportunity Program, U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, D.C. 20013-7127

Tennessee Historical Commission, Authorization Number 327324, 16,800 copies promulgated at a cost of \$0.17 per copy, 08/15.



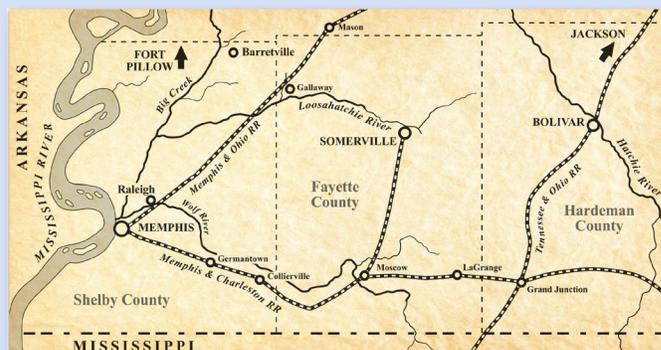
**Trail Marker, continued from page 6**

Green's account, they drank – "he to the Stars and Stripes and I to the Stars and Bars." Although Hurst was noted for rancor and violence, he treated Green with "the kindness and consideration due a brother Mason," as both men were members of the Masonic Order. It is likely that Anthony Barret's status as a fellow Mason kept Hurst from burning the Barret home.

The captured Confederates were taken via Somerville to Bolivar and then to Irving Block Prison at Memphis. Dr. Dickson was released there, but the others were moved successively to various detention facilities. En route from Norfolk to Fort Delaware, Green escaped and made it through the Dismal Swamp and back to Southern lines. Upon returning home, he was presented with the pistol he had hidden in the mattress at Barretville. Rebecca Hill Barret, Anthony's wife, had delivered it to Green's family following the withdrawal of Hurst and his troops.

A graduate of Centre College, Green (1829-1906) went on to serve as editor of the Tipton Record newspaper, published in Covington, Tennessee. He wrote about this incident and his detainment in the February 1899 issue of Confederate Veteran magazine.

Colonel Fielding Hurst (1810-1882) was one the Civil War's most polarizing figures. Although a McNairy County slaveholder, he was an ardent Unionist. Perhaps seeking vengeance for his imprisonment by Confederate authorities at the beginning of the war and for harsh treatment of his family by their Confederate neighbors, Hurst organized the Sixth Tennessee Cavalry (USA), which destroyed Jackson, portions of Brownsville, and even the courthouse and a church in his hometown of Purdy. He also raised the ire of Major Generals Stephen Hurlbut



Historic Map Showing Position of Barretville in Northeast Shelby County.

and Ulysses S. Grant for use of excessive force. Recent scholarship has shown that in some instances Hurst was a scapegoat.

The Tennessee Civil War Trails program is administered by the Tennessee Department of Tourist Development. The program's goal is not only to highlight major battles but also to tell the broader story of the war in Tennessee. The Tennessee Civil War Trails brochure is the most requested brochure at Tennessee Welcome Centers, and information about the Tennessee program is the most downloaded information from the Civil War Trails program, which covers the states of Virginia, West Virginia, North Carolina, Maryland, and Tennessee, as well as Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. At present, there are over 350 Tennessee Civil War Trails markers. Underscoring the magnitude of the effect of the Civil War on Tennessee, it is the only state recognized by Congress as a National Heritage Area for the Civil War.

*Tennessee Civil War Trails' Marker, observing the April 8, 1863 raid at Barretville, in the northeast corner of Shelby County, Tennessee. The Marker was commemorated on June 26, 2015. The program is administered by the Tennessee Department of Tourist Development. The program's goal is not only to highlight major battles but also to tell the broader story of the war in Tennessee.*



## Hurst's Raid at Barretville

★ ★ ★

April 8, 1863



During the winter of 1862-63, Confederate troops, including the First Tennessee Partisan Rangers, successfully attacked Federal troops in a series of skirmishes in southwest Tennessee. To deter further strikes, Union cavalry from Memphis, Jackson, and Fort Pillow prepared to converge on the Rangers. Recognizing the difficulty of withstanding such a massive force, the Rangers temporarily disbanded, spreading out over the countryside. A Ranger detachment comprised of Captain John Uriah Green, Captain James M. Barret, Corporal William Sankoff, Dr. Christopher William Dickson, and John Thompson eluded Union patrols in the area of northern Shelby County known as Big Creek Bottom.

On the night of April 8, Green and his comrades went to Anthony B. Barret's farm, including this site in the Barretville community, to obtain provisions. A Union regiment led by the notorious Colonel Fielding Hurst (see sidebar at lower right) arrived and captured all of the Confederates except Thompson, who was standing guard with the horses. Before surrendering, Green hid a pistol in the mattress of a bed at the Barret home. Although Hurst was noted for rancor and violence, he treated Green with "the kindness and consideration due a brother Mason," as both were members of the Masonic Order. Anthony Barret's status as a fellow Mason is believed to have kept Hurst from burning the Barret home and outbuildings.



Anthony B. Barret (1827-1902)

Anthony and Rebecca Hill Barret's locally-made plantation desk, pictured below, was likely in their home during Hurst's raid and has been passed down in the family for over 150 years. Often seen in farmhouses during the 19th century, particularly in the South, plantation desks feature compartments for several books and rest, as well as a drawer or shelves in the base. Whichever the full front console drawer and can be hinged for security when down, it offers a sloped writing surface.





These 19th-century masonlions signified the owner's rank within the Masonic Order.



Irving Block Prison at Memphis

The captured Confederates were taken to Bolivar and then to Irving Block Prison at Memphis. Dr. Dickson was released, but the others were moved to various detention facilities. En route from Norfolk, Virginia, to Fort Delaware, Green escaped and made it through the Dismal Swamp and back to Southern lines. Upon returning home, he was presented with the pistol he had hidden in the mattress at Barretville. Rebecca Hill Barret, Anthony's wife, had delivered it to Green's family following the withdrawal of Hurst and his troops.

**Fielding Hurst: Various Reviled and Respected**  
Colonel Fielding Hurst (1810-1882) was one of the Civil War's most polarizing figures. Although a McNairy County slaveholder, he was an ardent Unionist. Perhaps seeking vengeance for his imprisonment by Confederate authorities at the outset of the war and for harsh treatment of his family by their Confederate neighbors, Hurst organized the Sixth Tennessee Cavalry (USA), which destroyed Jackson, portions of Brownsville, and even the courthouse and a church in his hometown of Purdy. Major General Ulysses S. Grant (USA) and others reprimanded him for brutality and deprivation, but at times Hurst was a scapegoat.



# RIOTS IN TENNESSEE HISTORY

Researched and written by Kate Williams, Archival Assistant  
Courtesy of the Tennessee State Library & Archives

## Riots in Tennessee

Riots are disasters in a manner nearly the opposite to that of natural disasters. While natural disasters destroy great amounts of property and life and draw society together, riots may cause less physical damage but they destroy communities. The loss of mutual trust within the population caused by the violence of riots is not something that can be repaired, like cracks in a building. When people fear for their lives in their own homes, it is a violation of social order and the contract that binds the people together. Furthermore, when mourning after a natural disaster, people can rely on their neighbors to mourn with them. There is often no community-wide mourning for the victims of riots. Riots divide in even though the destruction, and, even when the physical wounds are healed and the buildings are repaired, the effects are still felt years later. Sometimes the damage done leaves permanent scars and the community is associated with that one instance of violence for decades, as the following examples will attest.

## Riots in Tennessee, continued on page 10

### Chattanooga Daily Times

CHATTANOOGA, TENN., TUESDAY, MARCH 20, 1906.

THE WEATHER  
Fair today and Wednesday,  
rain or snow in east portion.  
VOL. XXXVII, NO. 96.

## "GOD BLESS YOU ALL--AM INNOCENT"

### Ed Johnson's Last Words Before Being Shot to Death By a Mob Like a Dog

### MAJESTY OF THE LAW OUTRAGED BY LYNCHERS

### Mandate of the Supreme Court of the United States Disregarded and Red Riot Rampant.

### Terrible and Tragic Vengeance Bows City's Head in Shame

### Johnson Taken From County Jail Last Night, Marched to County Bridge and Hung While Red Rioters Complete Their Hideousness By Riddling Body With Bullets.

### NIGHT OF WICKEDNESS AND WOE

### Practically No Resistance Offered the Lynchers Who Numbered Less Than One Hundred Men.

### Only the Night Jailer Present When the Mob Makes the Onslaught on the County Prison.

### SHERIFF SHIPP FORCED INTO A BATH ROOM

### POLICE AND DEPUTIES NOT IN EVIDENCE, AND MOB WORKS UNINTERRUPTED FOR TWO HOURS.

### The Tragedy on the County Bridge Before Strangulation is Accomplished and the Falling Body is Riddled by Bullets.

### Practically no resistance to the last and with the words "God bless you all" on his lips, Ed Johnson, the negro convicted of murdering Miss Novata Taylor in St. Elmo on the night of Jan. 23, was shot to death on the county bridge last night. The awful scene was witnessed by a mob that descended upon the bridge as an official order of the United States supreme court, which gave him a

charged the negro was seen to shove his head slightly. "He's not dead," yelled one of the mob, and they were ordered up with demands for another gun. Then a big, broad-shouldered man, who had done much of the work, slowly pulled the chamber of his revolver. This his weapon was loaded to his satisfaction, he walked up to the negro, stood directly over the body and fired three shots. This ended the work of the mob and they left the bridge to rapidly that the mob citizens hardly knew they were going.

#### WITHOUT OPPOSITION

The Lynchers Take Two Hours to Reach the Prison, Meeting With Little Resistance.

It was near the hour of 8:30 when the mob of about 100 men, many of whom were dressed in military uniforms, gathered at the jail. An organization had been formed with headquarters at the jail, and the participants from the start the first night. The mob was led by a man who was identified as the leader of the mob, and he was seen to be in the front of the mob. The mob was seen to be in the front of the mob, and he was seen to be in the front of the mob.

#### STATEMENT OF SHERIFF SHIPP

Had No Intention That an Attempt Be Made to Kill Johnson.

Sheriff Shipp did not arrive at the jail on a horse or on foot, but on a mule. When he entered the lower court room, he found the mob gathered around the jail. He was seen to be in the front of the mob, and he was seen to be in the front of the mob.

Johnson was taken up to the second floor of the jail, and he was seen to be in the front of the mob, and he was seen to be in the front of the mob. The mob was seen to be in the front of the mob, and he was seen to be in the front of the mob.

The mob was seen to be in the front of the mob, and he was seen to be in the front of the mob. The mob was seen to be in the front of the mob, and he was seen to be in the front of the mob.

The mob was seen to be in the front of the mob, and he was seen to be in the front of the mob. The mob was seen to be in the front of the mob, and he was seen to be in the front of the mob.

#### NIGHT JAILER HELPS

Up the Keys But They Provoked Johnson Whom They Had Hanged.

From the time that the mob entered the jail, they were seen to be in the front of the mob, and he was seen to be in the front of the mob.

mob went to the jail. In a few minutes he heard the mob attempting to break down the first doorway and forcing their way in. He was seen to be in the front of the mob, and he was seen to be in the front of the mob.

#### ED JOHNSON'S NERVE

The Calm, Calmest Man in the Dread Enactment Was the Victim—Hanged and Then Riddled.

From the time Johnson was taken from the jail, he was seen to be in the front of the mob, and he was seen to be in the front of the mob.

The mob was seen to be in the front of the mob, and he was seen to be in the front of the mob. The mob was seen to be in the front of the mob, and he was seen to be in the front of the mob.

The mob was seen to be in the front of the mob, and he was seen to be in the front of the mob. The mob was seen to be in the front of the mob, and he was seen to be in the front of the mob.

#### Heaviest Snow of Present Business Suspended

DECATUR, Ill., March 19.—Eighteen inches of snow fell between 9 o'clock and midnight today. This is the heaviest snow fall ever known here. All business was suspended. Street cars were blocked, and no one was permitted to travel on foot. The snow was piled up on the sidewalks, and the streets were impassable.

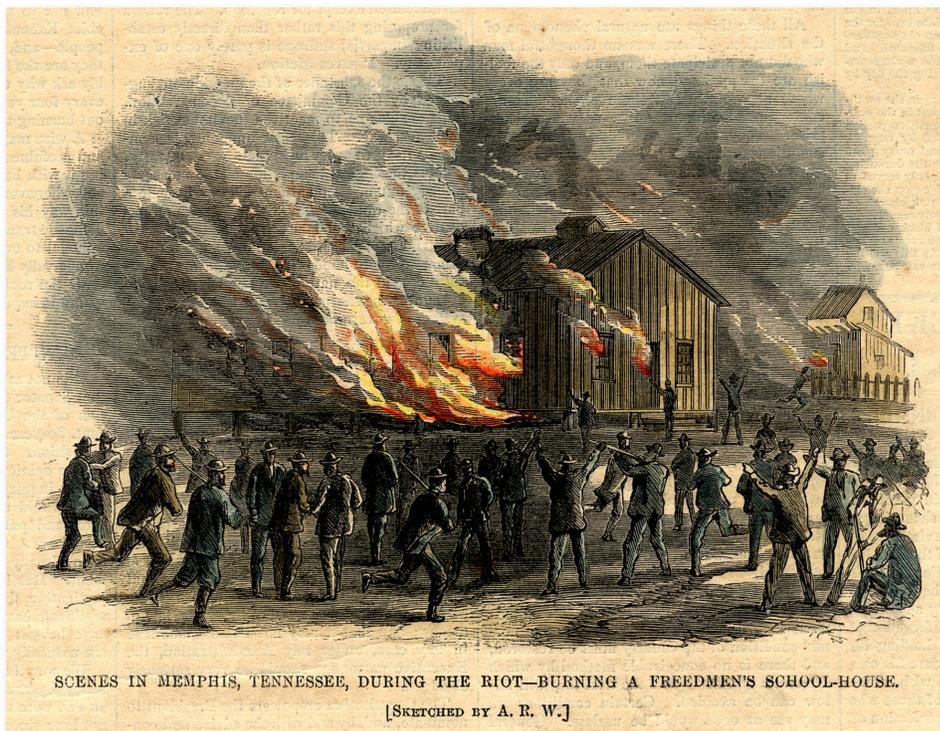
The mob was seen to be in the front of the mob, and he was seen to be in the front of the mob. The mob was seen to be in the front of the mob, and he was seen to be in the front of the mob.



Riots in Tennessee, *continued from page 9*

## Memphis Race Riots, Shelby County, Tennessee, May 1-3, 1866

The worst race riot in Tennessee history began as an argument between white policemen and former United States Colored Troops. It escalated quickly as mobs of white civilians ravaged black neighborhoods. Nearly fifty people died in the three-day riot and massacre: forty-six African Americans and two whites (one of the whites is believed to have died when his own firearm misfired). Seventy-five people were injured and 103 buildings were burned: ninety-one homes, four churches, and eight schools. One hundred people were robbed, many civilians lost their life savings, and many of the soldiers lost the money they had just received upon ending their service with the Union Army. Five women were raped. Martial law was finally implemented to stop the riot, but not before much bloodshed and destruction had occurred. Despite the widespread violence and investigations by the Freedmen's Bureau and a Joint Congressional Committee, none of the instigators was ever brought to trial. The Memphis riot, and a similar riot in New Orleans, lent power to the Republicans controlling Congress and led to the ratification of the 14th Amendment.



SCENES IN MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE, DURING THE RIOT—BURNING A FREEDMEN'S SCHOOL-HOUSE.  
[SKETCHED BY A. R. W.]

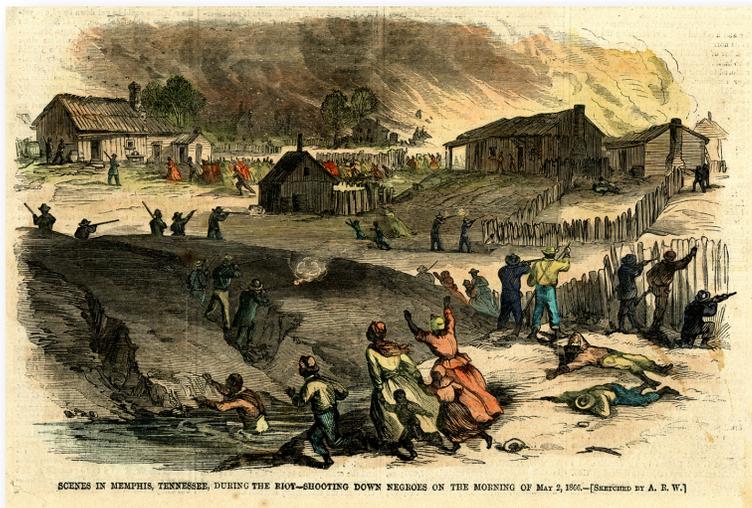
*“Scene in Memphis, Tennessee During the Riot Burning a Freedmen's School-house”*  
Harper's Weekly, May 26, 1866, Tennessee State Library & Archives (TSLA) Manuscript Collection.

### *Testimony of Dr. R. M. McGowan*

My name is Dr. R. M. McGowan, I live on South Street near Causey. On the 1st day of May 1866 while at my place I heard shots fired and upon going to the door saw several Policemen (one named Carroll) running up the street away from

the mob and when they arrived at the bridge one of the policemen was shot - did not see who shot him - I went to dress the wound, while doing so the police returned with an increased force and immediately upon their arrival they commenced firing upon the colored people indiscriminately. There were women and children amidst the colored people. I saw one colored man killed by the police on the bridge, he was running away from them at the time. I saw another colored man endeavoring to conceal himself,

when the police shot him and beat him over the head, he was left for dead. After night a colored soldier came to my house for protection, when a number of white men came along accompanied by police. One white man entered my place and asked me “what are you, you damn nigger doing here.” I replied “let him alone, he is waiting for the ambulance to gather the murdered.” He then said to me “you damn Yankee son of a bitch you can't come down here to live.” I think he also said “we will burn you out.” At this time the police came to the door when the man said “here is a damn abolitionist who says that the police are doing wrong,” the mob cried “bring him out.” I was forced out. The Captain of the Police then interfered and said “let him alone, I know him.” The next morning they assaulted my store during my absence and I was forced to leave & close it and it remained closed for several days. I think the man who entered my store on the night of the 1st is named Wm. Porter, a butcher. I can identify him.



SCENES IN MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE, DURING THE RIOT—SHOOTING DOWN NEGROES ON THE MORNING OF MAY 2, 1866.—[SKETCHED BY A. R. W.]

*“Scene in Memphis, Tennessee During the Riot Shooting Down Negroes on the Morning of May 2, 1866”*

Harper's Weekly, May 26, 1866, TSLA Manuscript Collection

**Riots in Tennessee, *continued on page 11***



Riots in Tennessee, *continued from page 10*

# Night Riders of Reelfoot Lake, Lake County, Tennessee, 1908

Since its creation in 1811-1812, Reelfoot Lake has provided good fishing and incomes for those who live in Lake County. Before the earthquakes that formed the lake, the land that became Reelfoot had been available for sale in land claims. After the lake was created, all the people who used it considered it public domain. In 1908, however, that perception was proven false when the West Tennessee Land Company bought up the land claims and claimed that by owning all of the shoreline, it owned the lake and all of its fishing rights.

The intention of the land company was to drain part of the lake to grow cotton, but the people of Lake County, seeing their lives and livelihoods at stake, formed a vigilante band and used violent means to fight back. They set fire to storehouses, shot at the judge who ruled in the land company's favor, and, on the night of October 19, 1908, committed murder.



Habeas corpus proceedings held before Judge Jones. Attorney-General Caldwell is in the centre with his eyeglasses showing against his waistcoat

The trial jury for the cases of the night riders charged with the murder of Captain Rankin at Reelfoot Lake

## THE "NIGHT-RIDER" TRIALS IN TENNESSEE

Attorneys Colonel Robert Z. Taylor and Captain Quentin Rankin, veterans of the Civil War and the Spanish American War respectively, worked for and were stakeholders

*Night Rider Trials, 1909*

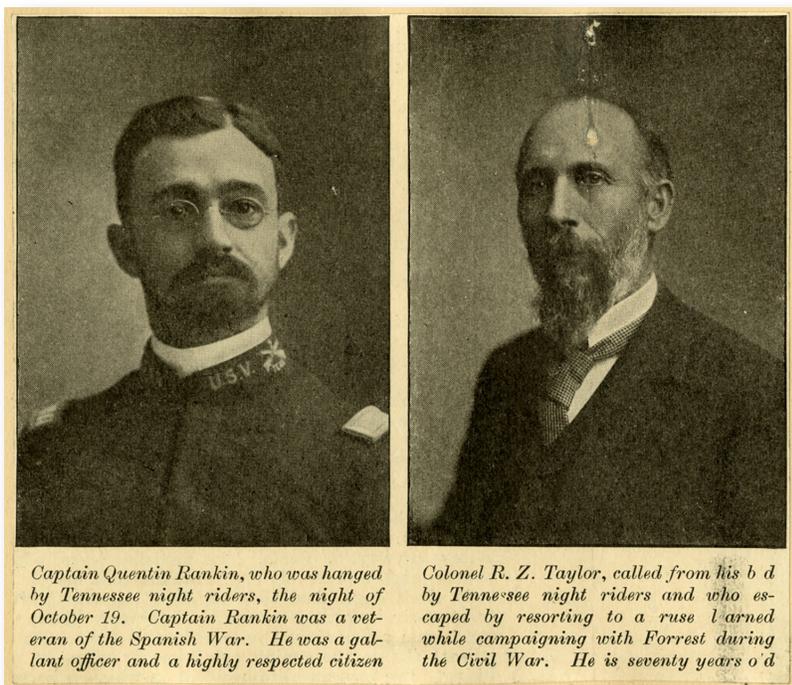
From a composite in *Harper's Weekly*, Tennessee Library and Archives Photograph Collection.

in the West Tennessee Land Company. On October 19 they were forcibly abducted from

their beds at the Walnut Log Hotel and taken into the woods. Rankin was hanged and shot, but Taylor managed to get away and jumped into the lake. To prevent his surviving and possibly telling the tale, the night riders shot into the lake at least thirty times to kill Taylor. He was presumed dead. Fortunately for Taylor, he was able to hide under a cypress log, and he was found over 24 hours later, wandering and bewildered.

Governor Patterson took firm action. He called in the Tennessee National Guard to keep order in the area. He offered a \$10,000 reward — dead or alive — for those responsible for the killing. Almost 100 suspects were detained in camps, where they were badly treated. Two people died from abuse before their day in court. Over 300 people were indicted, but only 6 were found guilty of murder. These six people were sentenced to death, but the Tennessee Supreme Court overturned their convictions in 1909.

The state acquired the title to the lake in 1914.



*Captain Quentin Rankin, who was hanged by Tennessee night riders, the night of October 19. Captain Rankin was a veteran of the Spanish War. He was a gallant officer and a highly respected citizen*

*Colonel R. Z. Taylor, called from his bed by Tennessee night riders and who escaped by resorting to a ruse learned while campaigning with Forrest during the Civil War. He is seventy years o'd*

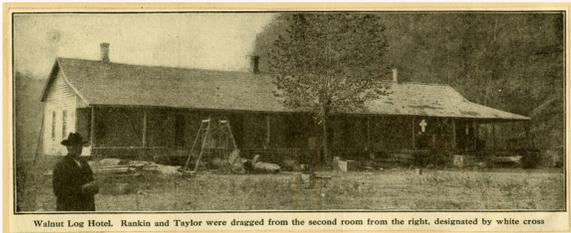
*Captain Rankin and Colonel Taylor* Tennessee Historical Society (THS) Photograph Collection

**Riots in Tennessee, *continued on page 12***



Riots in Tennessee, continued from page 11

# Night Riders of Reelfoot Lake, Lake County, Tennessee, 1908



Walnut Log Hotel. Rankin and Taylor were dragged from the second room from the right, designated by white cross

“Walnut Log Hotel. Rankin and Taylor were dragged from the second room from the right, designated by white cross” THS Photograph Collection



“The man seated between the two women is Judge Harris, Tiptonville, Tennessee, principal owner of the West Tennessee Land Company, which owns the major portion of Reelfoot Lake” THS Photograph Collection



Cross designates tree upon which Captain Quentin Rankin was hanged; arrow points to log behind which Colonel Robert Z. Taylor hid and escaped

“Cross designates tree upon which Captain Quentin Rankin was hanged; arrow points to log behind which Colonel Robert Z. Taylor hid and escaped” THS Photograph Collection



“Three prominent prisoners being escorted through the town of Union City, Tennessee, under military guard. They had been brought in from Camp Nemo” Tennessee State Library & Archives (TSLA) Photograph Collection.

“Churches were selected by the night riders for many of their meetings. The church at Samburg, shown above, is said to have been one of the favorite assembling points for raids.”

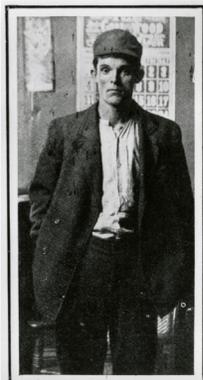


Churches were selected by the nightriders for many of their meetings. The church at Samburg, shown above, is said to have been one of the favorite assembling points for raids.

THS Photograph Collection



“Camp Nemo, Reelfoot Lake. Colonel W. C. Tatum, of Nashville, Commander First Tennessee Regiment, with staff and line officers. The troops and the prisoners get on together famously, with no ill-feeling” TSLA Photograph Collection



“Tid Burton, on trial as a leader of the night riders” TSLA Photograph Collection



“Frank Ferriner, night rider and star witness for the prosecution” Archives Photograph Collection

Tid Burton, on trial as a leader of the night riders

Frank Ferriner, night rider and star witness for the prosecution

Riots in Tennessee, continued on page 13



Riots in Tennessee, *continued from page 12*

# McMinn County War, Athens, Tennessee, August 1946

The McMinn County War, also called the Battle of Athens, was the name given to an outbreak of violence as returning GIs from World War II clashed with entrenched political interests in order to deliver the county from a corrupt system. Incumbent political-machine politician Paul Cantrell ran for sheriff again in 1946 after spending four years in the Tennessee State Senate. His crony, Pat Mansfield, had been sheriff in his absence and had cooperated with Cantrell in corrupting the local government. Among other things, they had implemented a system of fees that paid local officials for the number of people they arrested.

Returning WWII soldiers, numbering near 3,000 in 1946 (about 10% of the area's population), were fed up with the current method of justice. Ex-GI Knox Henry ran against Cantrell, and other GIs ran for several other positions in the local government.

On Election Day, August 1, 1946, two hundred armed deputies loyal to Cantrell watched the polls, physically beating GIs and a black man attempting to vote. A crowd gathered as deputies moved the ballot box to the local jail. The angry GIs took weapons from the local armory and fired upon the jail for half an hour until ammunition ran low. The deputies in the jail surrendered at about 2 a.m. when the GIs began to lob dynamite, destroying the jail's porch. In the precincts free of voter fraud, the GI candidates, including Knox Henry, won the election by nearly 60%.

By morning all violence had stopped. On that very day a governing council was set up and six men were chosen to police the county in the absence of the regular police, who had fled. After the certification of their victory, local GIs changed the method of payment of officials by limiting their salaries to \$5,000, replaced county employees who resigned, and scoured out corruption in the government and repaired the jail.



*Crowd gathered at the jail, Athens, Tennessee, 1946* TSLA Photograph Collection



*Ex-servicemen firing at the jail, Athens, Tennessee, 1946* TSLA Photograph Collection



*Left: H.E. Gunther looking over a pile of smashed slot machines and punch boards which were confiscated by ex-GI forces during raids on gambling houses in Athens, following election mob violence the previous week. Athens, Tennessee, 1946* TSLA Photograph Collection



**Riots in Tennessee,  
*continued on page 14***



Riots in Tennessee, *continued from page 12*  
(Addendum provided by James B. Jones, Jr.)

## Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt Made the Following Observations about the Conflict in Athens:

McMinn A Warning — By Eleanor Roosevelt New York, Monday — After any war, the use of force throughout the world is almost taken for granted. Men involved in the war have been trained to use force, and they have discovered that, when you want something, you can take it. The return to peacetime methods governed by law and persuasion is usually difficult. We in the U.S.A., who have long boasted that, in our political life, freedom in the use of the secret ballot made it possible for us to register the will of the people without the use of force, have had a rude awakening as we read of conditions in McMinn County, Tennessee, which brought about the use of force in the recent primary. If a political machine does not allow the people free expression, then freedom-loving people lose their faith in the machinery under which their government functions. In this particular case, a group of young veterans organized to oust the local machine and elect their own slate in the primary. We may deplore the use of force but we must also recognize the lesson which this incident points for us all. When the majority of the people know what they want, they will obtain it. Any local, state or national government, or any political machine, in order to live, must give the people assurance that they can express their will freely and that their votes will be counted. The most powerful machine cannot exist without the support of the people. Political bosses and political machinery can

be good, but the minute they cease to express the will of the people, their days are numbered. This is a lesson which wise political leaders learn young, and you can be pretty sure that, when a boss stays in power, he gives the majority of the people what they think they want. If he is bad and indulges in practices which are dishonest, or if he acts for his own interests alone, the people are unwilling to condone these practices. When the people decide that conditions in their town, county, state or country must change, they will change them. If the leadership has been wise, they will be able to do it peacefully through a secret ballot which is honestly counted, but if the leader has become inflated and too sure of his own importance, he may bring about the kind of action which was taken in Tennessee. If we want to continue to be a mature people who, at home and abroad, settle our difficulties peacefully and not through the use of force, then we will take to heart this lesson and we will jealously guard our rights. What goes on before an election, the threats or persuasion by political leaders, may be bad but it cannot prevent the people from really registering their will if they wish to. The decisive action which has just occurred in our midst is a warning, and one which we cannot afford to overlook.

*As cited in: The Daily Post-Athenian (Athens, Tenn.), August 7, 1946.*

## STATE LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES DISTRIBUTES GRANT FUNDS



The Tennessee State Library and Archives has awarded grants to 29 organizations across the state to preserve historical records and improve the facilities where those records are stored. In all, the State Library and Archives awarded more than \$95,000 worth of archival development grants.

These funds are typically used to pay for items such as shelving, cabinets,

archival folders, boxes, dehumidifiers and tools used by archivists.

"These grant funds help county archives and other organizations that keep historical records undertake projects that improve the way those records are collected and stored," Secretary of State Tre Hargett said. "I'm pleased that the Tennessee State Library and Archives is able to provide this needed financial support."