



THE COURIER



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TENNESSEE HISTORICAL COMMISSION, NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

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New THC Fund Helps Protect Missionary Ridge

The Tennessee Historical Commission has recently approved \$482,000 in grant funding from the new Tennessee Civil War Sites Protection Act. The inaugural round of funds will help save two tracts totaling almost 50 acres of highly-significant Civil War Battlefield. The properties are associated with the November, 1863 Battle of Missionary Ridge in Chattanooga, and funding was made possible by the Tennessee Civil War Sites Preservation Act of 2013, passed last year by the Tennessee General Assembly and signed into law by Gov. Haslam.

The Washington, DC-based non-profit Civil War Trust is the recipient of the grants, which will be matched with American Battlefield Protection Program grants and other monies to purchase two tracts of property. One parcel, known as "Tunnel Hill" consists of 30.7 acres and includes the 1850's-era Missionary Ridge Railroad tunnel, near North Crest Road and the National Park Service's Sherman Reservation, a part of the Chickamauga-Chattanooga National Military Park. The second tract, which is in the same area, consists of 17.4 acres and was the site of a Confederate artillery unit during the battle. The properties will eventually be turned over to the state and managed by the City of Chattanooga.

"This new program is a major boost to the Commission's



Entrance to Tunnel Hill, Chattanooga, circa 1857

longstanding active work to protect Civil War battlefields," Tennessee Historical Commission Director and State Historic Preservation Officer Patrick McIntyre said. Tennessee Wars Commission Program Director Fred Prouty added "the areas being saved are pivotal to being gaining a full understanding of the events that took place there during the battle."

The new THC grant program helps fund the acquisition of the properties, or of protective interests in properties--such as conservation easements--for land associated with the 38 most significant Civil War sites in Tennessee. In addition, eligible projects include funding Underground Railroad sites eligible for the National Register of Historic Places or for being designated a National Historic Landmark.

Due to state budget issues no funding was included in next year's budget, but the Commission is hopeful that there will be additional funding for the program in FY 2015.



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THC MERIT AWARDS PRESENTED

The THC Merit Awards were presented at the Commission's offices at Clover Bottom Mansion on May 22nd. This is the 40th annual edition of the awards, which began in 1975 in honor of Preservation Week (now National Preservation Month.) Executive Director Patrick McIntyre presided over the program, in which 16 recipients were announced in three categories. McIntyre noted the importance of this program in recognizing people and projects that have contributed directly to historic preservation and to the study of history in Tennessee in the past year. Awards were presented in the categories of Historic Preservation; Book or Public Programming; and Special Commendations.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION

1. The Lincoln County Sheriff's Department was recognized for the restoration of the former Howell Elementary School in Howell for use as a community center. The brick school with pressed metal roof shingles was built in 1914 and served several generations of students prior to its closure in 1979. The building languished for decades until a recent effort to return it to service as a gathering place for area residents. To stretch limited funding, inmates from the local jail performed much of the work. This arrangement allowed the inmates to feel the pride of contributing to a worthy civic project and to hone and expand various practical skills. Under the direction of Deputy Sheriff Gary Steger, the building has been sensitively restored and serves once again as a centerpiece of the community.
2. David and Debra Hill of Columbia received an award for the restoration of Skipwith Hall in Maury County. Mr. and Mrs. Hill have undertaken the restoration of several diverse and iconic landmarks in and near Columbia in recent years. They restored their primary residence, the Mayes-Hatcher Home in Columbia, several years ago. A rural plantation that traces its origins to c. 1810, Skipwith Hall was in need of substantial attention when purchased by Mr. and Mrs. Hill in 2012. As part of a complete restoration of the home, the Hills have refurbished or recreated many important architectural details.
3. Bob and Pam Black of Lebanon have been nominated for restoration of the Capitol Theatre in Lebanon. Opened in 1949, the Capitol was a centerpiece of downtown Lebanon for several decades prior to its closure in 1980. The Blacks, civic-minded local citizens, purchased the facility and invested \$1.9 million into its restoration so that it could return to prominence as a facility for movies, theater, music, and civic events. Interior design services were provided by Patina Period Interior Design consulting business
4. Gray Stothart of Johnson City was nominated for his work in putting together an online interactive map of National Register-listed places in the First Tennessee Development District, where he serves as a preservation planner. For this project, Stothart also received an Innovation Award from the National Association of Development Organizations.
5. Ken Robison of Memphis was recognized for the restoration of the landmark Annesdale Mansion in midtown Memphis. Home to the prominent Snowden family for more than 100 years, this c. 1850s Italianate structure and its extensive grounds had deteriorated in recent years. Robison purchased it in 2010 and since then has restored it to serve new generations as a private residence and an event venue. This was a Rehab Tax Credit project administered through THC
6. Ron Edmondson of Greenback received an award for the restoration of the Greenback Train Depot in Loudon County. For many years the c. 1919 depot had been used only for storage. Edmondson worked with East Tennessee Development District Preservation Planner Dr. Heather Bailey on appropriate restoration treatments, which he then undertook. The building also achieved listing on the National Register during his ownership. Mr. Edmondson was given an East Tennessee Preservation Alliance Award in Maryville in November, 2013.
7. PBG Builders, the City of Brentwood, Jim Thompson, and Leatherwood, Inc., received a certificate for the restoration of Ravenswood Mansion in Brentwood. Dating to as early as 1825, Ravenswood is now publically-owned has been renovated to serve as centerpiece of a park. New heating and cooling systems, as well as the elimination of later additions, have resulted in an attractive, historic building with up-to-date amenities.



The colorful career of Judge Lewis Shepherd

BY SAM D. ELLIOTT

At the turn of the 20th century, the best known lawyer in Chattanooga was Lewis Shepherd. Born in Hamilton County in 1846, he was educated at Burritt College in Van Buren County and H. W. Alderhoff's Institute on Lookout Mountain. Soon after the Civil War, Shepherd returned to Chattanooga and became the youngest member of the bar. He rose to District Attorney General and later served in the Tennessee General Assembly, resigning because he didn't enjoy "serving with men with less intelligence than his wife's mule." A lawyer's lawyer, he left a Circuit Court judgeship because he was "born to be an advocate, not a referee." Shepherd was the first dean of the Chattanooga College of Law, which was eventually absorbed into Grant University, later the University of Chattanooga.

One of the pillars of Shepherd's prestige in turn-of-the-century Chattanooga was his service in the Confederate Army. Accounts of his service which were published in his lifetime indicate that young Shepherd joined the Army in 1861 and was first posted on guard duty in East Tennessee to protect railroad lines against Unionist guerrillas. He later participated in the Mill Springs campaign in early 1862 and Braxton Bragg's raid into Kentucky in the fall of 1862. Shepherd fought with Bedford Forrest at Chickamauga, helping capture a Federal hospital, and later participated in Wheeler's Raid in October 1863. Having become part of the 5th Tennessee Cavalry sometime in 1863 or 1864, Shepherd was captured and sent to Camp Morton, Ind., before being exchanged in February 1865. He gamely rejoined the Confederate army and served with Brig. Gen. John C. Vaughn as an escort for Confederate President Jefferson Davis during his flight from Richmond, Va.

Decades later, Shepherd related a sensational story relative to the gold and silver specie that accompanied Davis on his flight, some of the specie belonging to the Confederate government and some to various Richmond banks. When Davis's party reached

Washington, Ga., in May 1865, it was concluded the wagon train of money was impeding their escape. The money belonging to the rebel government was divided among the troops then present, each man getting \$26.50. The Richmond bankers decided to turn to the Federal authorities to protect their money. Shepherd related how a number of the men of Vaughn's brigade heard of this wagon train of money, intercepted it and made off with enormous sums. According to Shepherd, he knew of men who made it to Kansas City as well as Texas and California and used the monies to build great fortunes. A story published in the Confederate Veteran magazine in 1917 left it to its readers to determine whether Shepherd's account was feasible.

In 1906, Shepherd was appointed to assist in the representation of Ed Johnson, a black man who was falsely accused of raping a white woman. Shepherd conducted Johnson's defense in as effective a manner as possible given the public outcry and bias shown by the court and the jury. In his final argument, he lambasted both the judge and the prosecution and accused Sheriff Joseph F. Shipp, a fellow Confederate veteran, of not seeking justice but re-election. And when Johnson was convicted, Shepherd, alone among his defense lawyers, advocated an appeal, contemptuous of a threatened lynch mob. Shepherd cooperated with Noah Parden and Styles Hutchins, the two black lawyers who stepped forward to press Johnson's federal appeal. And when a lynch mob took Ed Johnson's life, Shepherd was one of the few white people who went to Johnson's funeral, although he showed insensitivity at another point in participating in a mock seance "contacting" Johnson.

As a final twist, when the United States Supreme Court cited Sheriff Shipp, other officers and citizens of Chattanooga of violating the court's order that Johnson not be disturbed, Shepherd represented nine accused members of the lynch mob that took Johnson's life, the first time he appeared before that eminent tribunal.

Shepherd died at age 72 in 1917 in the midst of trying a lawsuit. The Chattanooga Times observed that Shepherd's last wish was satisfied: "to go to his reward straight from the courtroom."

Sam D. Elliott is a local attorney with Gearhiser, Peters, Elliott and Cannon, chairman of the Tennessee Historical Commission and the author or editor of several books and essays on the Civil War. For more information, visit Chattahistoricalassoc.org or call LaVonne Jolley at 423-886-2090.

HISTORICAL MARKERS

At its meeting on February 21, 2014 the Tennessee Historical

Commission approved ten historical markers: *Center Hill Dam*, DeKalb County; *Colored Negro Dept: Tennessee School for the Deaf*, Knox County; *World War II Maneuvers*, Macon County; *Christmas Night Shootout*, Marion County; *Rutherford County Hospital and Eaglefield Baptist Church*, Rutherford County; *Bobby Blue Bland and Hutchinson School*, Shelby County; *Piney Flats Village*, Washington County; and *Glass Mounds Archaeological Site*, Williamson County. Those interested in submitting proposed texts for markers should contact Linda T. Wynn at the Tennessee Historical Commission, 2941 Lebanon Road, Nashville, Tennessee 37243-0442, or call (615) 532-1550.

**THC Merit Awards...continued from page 2****BOOK OR PUBLIC PROGRAMMING**

1. The Dickson County Historical and Genealogical Society received a certificate for its *Pictorial History of Dickson County, Tennessee, 1803-2013*. This 480-page book contains many historical photos of Dickson County personalities and places, as well as a reprint of the Dickson County section of *Goodspeed's History of Tennessee*, originally published in 1886.
2. Dr. Farris Beasley of Fayetteville received an award for his role in organizing the Camp Blount Bicentennial Celebration held in Fayetteville on September 27 and 28. This event commemorated the importance of this War of 1812 mustering ground with educational programs and period re-enactors.
3. Kathy Lauder and Ron Peaks were recognized for "This Honorable Body: African-American Legislators in 19th-Century Tennessee," a web-based educational program that tells the stories of African-American political leaders in Tennessee during the decades following the Civil War. It utilizes well-researched text and seldom-seen photographs and other images to engage young people as well as adults.
4. Robert Gordon was given an award for his book *Respect Yourself: A History of Stax Records*. Gordon provided an account of Stax Records from its early years to its zenith as the home of Otis Redding, Isaac Hayes, Booker T. & the M.G.s, Sam & Dave, Steve Cropper, and other internationally-acclaimed recording artists and, more recently, to its rebirth as a museum and music academy for inner-city youth. As told by Gordon, the Stax story illuminates the broader social context of a place where an integrated cadre of singers, songwriters, arrangers, musicians, and managers created and promoted a new kind of popular music.
5. The National Medal of Honor Foundation was recognized for

publishing *Paths to Valor: The Medal of Honor in the Civil War and the Chattanooga Area* by E. Raymond Evans. This is an account of Medal of Honor winners with an emphasis on links to Chattanooga. The first six recipients of the Medal of Honor were from Andrews' Raiders, who in 1862 commandeered a locomotive behind Confederate lines in an effort to destroy railroad tracks, telegraph lines, and bridges in support of Union forces approaching Chattanooga from the west and north.

SPECIAL COMMENDATIONS

1. Gerald Kline of Nashville, was honored for his many years of work as an archaeologist with the Tennessee Department of Transportation. Over the course of his career, Mr. Kline has helped identify over 2000 archaeological sites in the state. Mr. Kline's career has been devoted to the identification, evaluation, and protection of the state's significant prehistoric and historic archaeological sites. Of particular merit is his longstanding and continuing consultation with the large number of Indian tribes who expressed concern for the protection of their sacred and cultural sites from highway projects. This consultation has ensured the identification, evaluation, and protection of numerous sites throughout the state that are eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.
2. The Glen Leven Farm Task Force of the Land Trust of Tennessee received an award for "the permanent conservation of Glen Leven Farm" in Nashville. Located just four miles from downtown Nashville, this 65-acre property is an outstanding representation of the past, with a significant Greek Revival house and period outbuildings. Left to the Land Trust after the death of the last owner, this project has grown into a major focus for the organization. A million-dollar fundraising effort

coordinated by Ridley Wills II led to the complete exterior stabilization of the house and outbuildings.

3. Linda Gupton of Lewisburg was recognized for her longtime work as a volunteer with and leader of the Athenaeum Rectory in Columbia and its annual re-enactment for girls ages 14 through 18 of the Athenaeum Girls School as of 1861, as well as for her recent book, *Seasons of the South*, which explores the story of U.S. Army General Earl Van Dorn and his affair with Jessie McKissack Peters that led to his murder in Spring Hill in 1862.
4. Carroll McMahan of Knoxville was recognized for his "Upland Chronicles," a series of weekly newspaper articles on Sevier County history. McMahan also has a new book *Uncle Lem Ownby: Sage of the Smokies*.

Awards are solicited from the public each year and reviewed by the Commission's Awards Committee, chaired by the Commission's Vice Chair for West Tennessee, Paul A. Matthews of Memphis. Other committee members this year included Commission members Kathie Fuston of Columbia and Derita Coleman Williams of Memphis. The full Commission voted on and approved the honorees at the February meeting in Cookeville.

NEW COMMISSION MEMBERS APPOINTED

Gov. Bill Haslam recently appointed two new members to the Tennessee Historical Commission.

The Hon. David Tipton of Piney Flats was appointed in January. A Municipal City Judge in Bristol since 2013, Judge Tipton has had an extensive legal career and is a partner in the law firm of Tipton and Jones. He has a B.S. from East Tennessee State University and a J.D. from the Memphis State University School of Law. He is a past president of the Rocky Mount Historical Association, and served



The Stony Road to the Civil Rights Act of 1964

BY LINDA T. WYNN
Assistant Director for State Programs

This year marks the 50th Anniversary of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, as well as Freedom Summer, a project designed to register African Americans to vote in the Deep South. When reflecting upon these civil rights milestones of the modern struggle for African American freedom, equality, and justice, the words of James Weldon Johnson's poem *Lift Every Voice and Sing* came to mind. Written more than 100-years ago, it resonates with not only the long drawn out journey to the 1964 Civil Rights Act but it also echoes the "hope of the present" and the tenaciousness to "march on until victory is won." Penned by James Weldon Johnson in 1900, Johnson's brother, John Rosamond Johnson set it to music. By 1920 the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) proclaimed the song the "Negro National Anthem." *Lift Every Voice and Sing* epitomizes the stony road and prolonged struggle African Americans experienced in their quest for freedom, equality, and justice.

A mythical narrative of the civil rights movement became embedded and solidified at the turn of the 21st century to serve political and economic needs. Critical to the framework of this idea was that the Civil Rights Movement illustrated the resiliency and redemptive capacity of America's democratic system. In this prevailing narrative, racism was imparted as a stain on American democracy rather than a constitutive building block constructed by the framers of its Constitution. However, the pervasive feeling was that once the fullness of its adverse holistic impact was witnessed and fully comprehended, racism would be eliminated. Yet, over the last two decades scholarly work has amply illustrated that power conceded nothing without demand, as Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. noted

"freedom is never voluntarily given by the oppressor; it must be demanded by the oppressed."² Almost any gain African Americans made on their journey to freedom, equality, and justice was fraught with both direct and indirect measures or gentle nudges and hard shoves that caused the power structure to take action that brought them closer to first-class citizenship. As noted by Derrick Bell, author of *Silent Covenants: Brown v. Board of Education and the Unfulfilled Hopes for Racial Reform*, "... relief from racial discrimination has come only when policy makers recognize that such relief will provide a clear benefit for the nation or portions of the populace."³

The Declaration of Independence written by slave-holding Thomas Jefferson did not extend "Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness" to millions of American blacks of African heritage in America, indentured servants, Native Americans, or women. In fact, the Declaration of Independence says nothing at all about these groups of people, slavery, or the slave trade. Until the ratification and subsequent adoption of the Thirteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution on December 6, 1865, America's power structure disavowed freedom for American Blacks for ninety years.

"Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction."⁴

However, unlike the Declaration of Independence, the original United States Constitution could not and did not disregard the issue of slavery, even though the term appears nowhere in the document. Instead, it recognized and at

least somewhat legitimized the institution of thralldom in the United States. A concise plan for the government of a fledgling democracy, the Constitution supported and succored the institution of thralldom, even as many of the signatory states were in the process of terminating the "peculiar institution." The new Constitution increased Southern representation in Congress by including "three-fifths" of every enslaved person in the population for those states. It preserved inviolate the Southern states' rights to carry on the slave trade for another twenty years and it constitutionally obligated persons living in free states to return fugitive slaves to their masters.⁵ Simply put, the Constitution protected slavery in two articles and three sections.⁶ Article I, Section 2, Clause 3, of the original U.S. Constitution contained the three-fifths clause.

Representatives and direct Taxes shall be apportioned among the several States that may be included within this Union, according to their respective Numbers, which shall be determined by adding to the whole Number of free Persons, including those bound to Service for a Term of Years, and excluding Indians not taxed, three-fifths of all other Persons. . . .

Article I, Section 9, Clause 1, of the original U.S. Constitution prohibited Congress from ending the slave trade before 1808.

The migration or importation of such persons as any of the States now existing shall think proper to admit shall not be prohibited by the Congress prior to the year 1808; but a tax or duty may be imposed on

Stony Road *cont. page 11*



National Register of Historic Places News

By Christine Mathieson

THE TENNESSEE SUPREME COURT BUILDING

The Tennessee Supreme Court Building is located in downtown Nashville at the intersection of Charlotte Avenue and Seventh Avenue North, across from the Tennessee State Capitol. The Tennessee Supreme Court Building was constructed in 1936-1937, to replace the limited Supreme Court space in the Capitol, where it had been primarily located since 1853. The new Supreme Court building was designed in the Stripped Classical style by the Nashville based architectural firm, Marr and Holman. The building contains three main floors with an attic level and a full basement.



Tennessee Supreme Court Building façade

The main entrance is through three evenly spaced double doors located on the east façade which faces Seventh Avenue North. The façade features doors and windows separated by square limestone piers with simple Doric capitals. Above the third story on the façade is a classically detailed cornice featuring metope, antefix, and guttae. Above the cornice is an attic story recessed from the main building block. The other elevations are simple and restrained, with minimal decoration, but display some classical motifs. The interior, particularly on the first floor, features a higher degree of decoration than the exterior, including extensive use of marble throughout and decorative elements in bronze, walnut, and plaster. The building has minimal exterior decoration and a horizontal mass, both typical of the Stripped Classical style. The interior comprises a lobby space, a courtroom, a library (which has been partially converted to the Judiciary Museum) and offices and conference rooms on the second, third, and fourth floors; there is a garage on the basement level. There have been very few changes to the building on both the interior and exterior.

The Tennessee Supreme Court Building was listed in the National Register of Historic Places for the areas of Law, Government, and Architecture at the State and Local levels of significance. From its construction to the present, the Tennessee Supreme Court Building has been important to the Nashville community and the State of Tennessee, both civically and architecturally. The the building is significant in the area of law and government as well as for its architecture. Decades of important rulings and legal precedents occurred at the Tennessee Supreme Court Building, which was the first building in Tennessee specifically constructed to house the Supreme Court and the Court of Appeals. Additionally, the building is significant as a New Deal-era project, partially funded by the Public Works Administration. The building is architecturally significant as a prime example of Stripped Classicism, and representative of the work of the Nashville



Lobby area of the Tennessee Supreme Court Building, with door leading to the courtroom



Tennessee Supreme Court Building courtroom



Historic Places...continued from page 6

based architectural firm, Marr and Holman. The period of significance begins in 1936 with the beginning of construction, and ends in 1965, when the fourth floor was reconfigured to accommodate the need for office space related to the newly established position of Secretary of the Supreme Court and associated staff. The building retains an exceptionally high level of integrity on the interior and exterior.

The National Register nomination for the Tennessee Supreme Court Building was prepared by Christine Mathieson of the Tennessee Historical Commission.

THE GRAND GUITAR

Located between I-81 and State Street in Bristol, Tennessee, the Grand Guitar was constructed in 1982-83 as a museum, recording studio, store, and roadside attraction. The building was listed to the National Register of Historic Places for its local and regional significance in Architecture. Although the building has not yet reached fifty years old, it has exceptional significance as a prime example of mimetic architecture and its association with Bristol, the official “Birthplace of Country Music.”



Grand Guitar State Street façade

The building is a seventy-foot long, two and three story replica of a Martin Dreadnought guitar. The guitar is wood frame clad in metal and it sits on a concrete block foundation. The south (State Street) and north (I-81) facades both are the entire front part of a guitar. The State Street façade serves as the main entry to the building, and features the face of the guitar, complete with turning keys, frets, fingerboard, and rope serving as strings. There are fixed



Grand Guitar area of the Museum

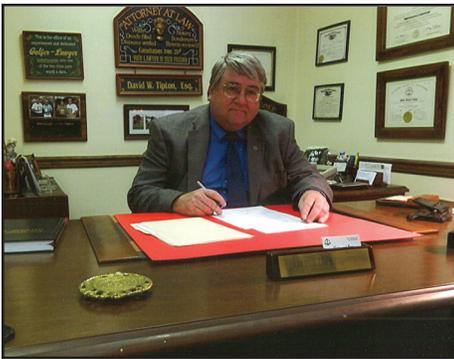
windows of varying sizes situated between frets that mimic position markers. There is also a large circular window that is the sound hole of the guitar. Entry to the building is through a single leaf door, with the original sign for the building above it. On the interior, entry to the building is on the ground floor which currently houses a working radio station booth, but historically was the gift shop area. Steps with ornamental metal railings lead to the second floor which is the main public area of the Grand Guitar. This level houses the museum which displays rare and unusual string instruments. The third level of the guitar is office and storage space.

The Grand Guitar was designed by Bristol entrepreneur and musician, Joe Morrell, to house a museum of his “rare and unusual string instruments”, recording studio, and a store. The Grand Guitar took fifteen years of planning, \$100,000, and eight months of construction. It is a regionally significant example of mimetic architecture. Mimetic architecture, also referred to as programmatic architecture, is a structure or building that mimics something that is not usually seen as a building, like a café that is a giant coffee pot. This type of building was popular during the early automobile age and is usually seen in commercial buildings. Modern mimetic architecture is often located near highways, and the goal is to lure a traveler from the road, into the community, and into that building in particular. The Grand Guitar is an important icon for the city of Bristol, an eye catching entrance to the “Birthplace of Country Music.”

The National Register nomination for the Grand Guitar was prepared by Claudette Stager of the Tennessee Historical Commission.



Merit Award...continued from page 4

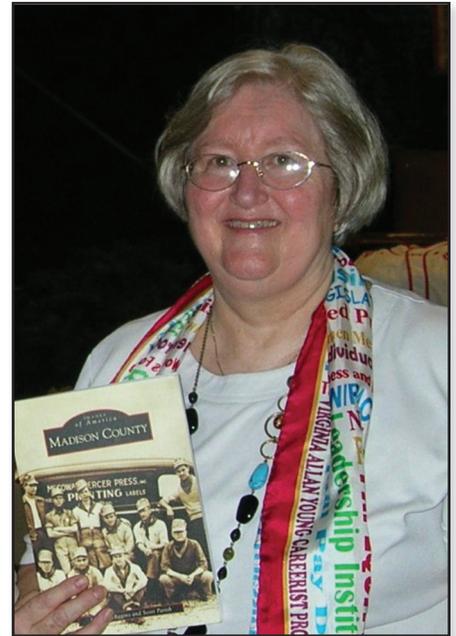


The Honorable David Tipton

on the board from 2006-2012. He is a charter member of the Tri-Cities Civil War Round Table and a life member of the Sons of Confederate Veterans, Lt. Robert D. Powell Camp 1817 in Blountville. He and his wife Ann are the parents of two daughters, and they have two grandchildren. Judge Tipton enjoys traveling with friends, golf, and studying Tennessee and Civil War history.

Linda Higgins of Jackson was appointed in February. Mrs. Higgins has served as the Madison County Historian since 2007 and co-authored the 2009 book Madison County

for the "Images of America" series. She holds a B.S. degree in Journalism from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, and has an M.A. in Political Science from the University of Memphis. Mrs. Higgins has an extensive background, including having served as the city court clerk for Jackson; executive director of the Reelfoot Girl Scout Council; writer for *The Jackson Sun*; and as director for planning for the Southwest Tennessee Development District. Mrs. Higgins has been extensively involved in the Bemis Historical Society, and wrote several successful grants totaling \$556,267 (including a \$397,000 Save America's Treasures grant) to restore the auditorium in the historic cotton mill village of Bemis.



Linda J. Higgins

THC SPONSORS SLAVE DWELLING PROJECT VISIT

Historic preservationist Joseph McGill of Ladson, South Carolina, founder of the Slave Dwelling Project, visited Nashville May 21-25. McGill's trip was underwritten by the Tennessee Historical Commission/Tennessee Wars Commission, and his visit included lectures and overnight stays at three Nashville historic sites--Clover Bottom, the Hermitage, and Belle Meade. McGill's visit was coordinated with the THC's annual Certificate of Merit awards program, and was a centerpiece of the agency's activities for National Preservation Month.

"While his travels have taken him as far as Missouri and Massachusetts, this is the first time Mr. McGill has been to Tennessee for this project," said Patrick McIntyre, State Historic Preservation Officer and Executive Director of the Tennessee Historical Commission. "We are honored to have him here." Since 2010, McGill has traveled the country staying in the former homes of enslaved residents in order to bring attention to the scarcity of these properties and the need to preserve them.

The Commission held a mini-symposium May 22 prior to the annual Certificate of Merit Awards program. McGill's lecture, entitled "Silent Witnesses: Preserving Slave Dwellings," provided a great insight into his work and highlighted the nearly 60 places he has stayed. In addition, Dr. Bobby L. Lovett of Tennessee State

University, discussed slave life in Nashville and Tennessee. Author and Wessyngton Plantation slave descendant John Baker spoke on his ongoing work to identify former slaves from this Robertson County plantation. Longtime THC staff member and Clover Bottom historian Steve Rogers discussed Clover Bottom Plantation and John McCline. McCline was born a slave at Clover Bottom and served in the Union Army in the Civil War. McCline's posthumously published memoir, "Slavery in the Clover Bottoms," provides a rare and important account of slave life in Nashville in the period just prior to and during the Civil War.

Following a brief living history program highlighting the roles of the United States Colored Troops in the Civil War, McGill spent his first night in an 1850s-era out building at Clover Bottom. He was joined by McIntyre, THC staff member Dan Brown, and MTSU archaeologist Dr. Katie Sykes. McGill spent Friday night at the "First Hermitage" building at the Hermitage, and participated in a tour and discussion of that site's well-known slave archaeology projects. He finished his trip at Bob Green's Cabin at Belle Meade Plantation, where he was joined by several staff members from Belle Meade. There is great potential for future visits to Tennessee, and McGill's ongoing work may be followed at "www. Slavedwellingproject.org"



Tennessee Wars Commission Report of Activities

By Fred M. Prouty, Director of Programs

TENNESSEE WARS COMMISSION PROJECTS

In the interest of time and space the following Wars Commission activities are presented in bullet format below:

- In March the Tennessee Wars Commission (TWC) participated with Tennessee's War of 1812 Bicentennial Commission in a symposium event at a Fayetteville high school facility located near the historic Camp Blount site. Wars director Fred Prouty partnered with Tennessee Division of Archaeology member Ben Nance as speakers for the presentation, "Early Tennessee Gun Makers Survey and Guns of the War of 1812". Tours of Camp Blount historic site were also given by several living history participants.
- The Civil War Trust of Washington, DC, held its National 2014 Annual Conference in Nashville, Tennessee on May 28th through June 1st. The event drew hundreds of participants. Tours included, Forrest through Middle Tennessee, the Battle of Fort Donelson, Battle of Nashville, Battle of Parkers Crossroads, Battle of Spring Hill and the Tullahoma Campaign. Our battlefield preservation partners at the Civil War Trust are currently working with us on the acquisition of several additional Civil War battlefield properties within our Volunteer State. All properties acquired by the State of Tennessee are presented for approval to the State Lands Acquisition Commission and the State Building Commission by the director of the Wars Commission and when approved become conservation easements under the supervision of the Tennessee Historical Commission.
- TWC director and TDEC legal counsel will meet with the City of Adams, Tennessee officials to discuss the creation of a primary caretaker agreement, interpretation planning and trail development for the recently acquired 20+ acre tract of land containing the remains of an important Civil War era field fortification and extant 1850s cut stone railroad trestle piers that spanned the Red River. The purchase was made with assistance from the TWC and State of Tennessee State Land Acquisition Commission.
- As part of Tennessee's Civil War Sesquicentennial observance, TWC Director Fred Prouty participated in the 150th remembrance of the April 12, 1864 Battle of Fort Pillow. The event was well planned and directed by Tennessee State Park officials and along with several hundred visitors, more than 60 Civil War living history military groups participated on the grounds of the original fortifications. Among the reenactment participants were members of several companies of the United State Colored Troops (USCT) as they were known during the war years. It was also the unveiling of the TWC's latest publication, "Ready to Die for Liberty, Tennessee's United States Colored Troops in the Civil War". The publication has been very well received and will soon be featured in National Park Service's battlefield gift shops and book stores.
- Tennessee 2014 Civil War Sesquicentennial Signature Event entitled, "The Last Campaign in Tennessee" will be held in Franklin on November 13-14, 2014. For additional information see: <http://tncivilwar150.com>.
- The TWC is engaged in ongoing efforts with the East Tennessee's Lakeview Civil War Preservation Association and the City of Bean Station officials in efforts to preserve and interpret Civil War fortifications on the Bean Station battlefield, now the property of Tennessee Valley Authority.
- Talks continue with Big Harpeth River State Park and the TWC to create a satellite state park at Craggie Hope Civil War Railroad fortifications near Kingston Springs, Tennessee.
- Tennessee Department of Transportation officials and Shiloh National Military Park continue to review the possible transfer of Tennessee's Davis Bridge Battlefield property to the National Park Service. The plan will hinge on the Congressional approval of Senator Lamar Alexander's bill to expand the Shiloh Park boundary to include Davis Bridge and the Battle of Fallen Timbers.
- We are continuing dialog with East Tennessee preservation groups about acquiring conservation easements on property associated with the Battle of Mossy Creek in Jefferson County. Talks are also ongoing with the Land Trust for Tennessee on possible conservation easements for the Jefferson County Dandridge Civil War Battlefield site and Thompson Station Battlefield in Williamson County.
- TWC Director of Programs lead his tenth tour of the Williamson County Triune Civil War earthworks in March. The program included pre-tour presentation by staff of the Land Trust for Tennessee and the Wars Commission on the benefits of preserving historic and endangered property by means of conservation easements. There were over 60 participants in the day long tour.
- Grants for the 2013 Wars Commission funding applications

War Commission *cont.* page 10



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TENNESSEE HISTORICAL COMMISSION
2941 Lebanon Road
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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, 8,000 copies promulgated at a cost of \$0.23 per copy, 011/10.

War Commission...continued from page 9

have been reviewed and those selected are as follows: The City of Germantown's Civil War Park (preservation), Johnsonville Historic State Site (interpretive signage), Nashville Metro Historical Commission (interpretive signage for historic Buchanan Cemetery), Bledsoe's Lick Historical Association (interpretive signage), and Franklins Charge (archeological investigations). Grant applications for the next funding cycle are currently being received with the cut-off date of October 1, 2014.

- Dr. Wayne Moore and the staff of the Tennessee State Library and Archives (TSLA) are continuing with their statewide "Looking Back Program". TSLA is sending teams of professional archivists and conservators to communities across Tennessee. The team has digitized hundreds of Civil War era manuscripts, artifacts, and photographs across the state. Funding for the project has been made available through the Tennessee Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission and due to reductions in current Sesquicentennial appropriations the program will soon be able to continue and finish the remaining counties through a grant from the TWC. For more information see civilwar.tsla@tn.gov.
- The TWC and our partners at the Tennessee Division of Archeology are planning a resurvey of the most significant and endangered Civil War era sites in Tennessee. This needed resurvey will aid to future efforts to acquire or obtain conservation easements on properties that are not eligible for matching federal funds through the National Park Service, American Battlefield Protection Program.
- Wars Commission continues in our partnership and support of the Tennessee State Library and Archives online website, "Tennessee Civil War

GIS Project" on the Tennessee Map Portal (<http://tnmap.tn.gov/civilwar>). The Geographic Information Systems (GIS) project allows you to explore Tennessee's Civil War history in an interactive Web-based map. Hundreds of engagements and battles are pinpointed with aerial photography and modern map layers. There is a link to narrative information from the *Official Records* and the "Tennessee Civil War Sourcebook", created by Tennessee Historical Commission staff member Dr. James Jones. The GIS project also includes the 1860 Census data and unit histories of every Tennessee Regiment (both Union and Confederate) as described in the state publication, "Tennesseans in the Civil War". Featuring many original maps, documents, diaries and photographs, this project is becoming a powerful tool for battlefield preservation in Tennessee and a template for other states and national agencies.

The TWC continues in its mission to preserve Tennessee's military history by coordinating the planning, preservation and promotion of structures, sites and battlefields in Tennessee; and by acquiring or providing funds for the acquisition of battlegrounds, cemeteries and other historic properties associated with the French and Indian War, American Revolutionary War, War of 1812, Mexican War and the War Between the States.

Please address comments to;

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such importation, not exceeding \$10 for each person. . . Article IV, Section 2, Clause 3, of the original U.S. Constitution contained the fugitive-slave clause. It is no longer in effect:

No Person held to Service or Labor in one State, under the Laws thereof, escaping into another, shall, in Consequence of any Law or Regulation therein, be discharged from such Service or Labor, But shall be delivered up on Claim of the Party to whom such Service or Labor may be due. . . .

In 1849 Frederick Douglass, a former slave and prominent abolitionist noted the Constitution's artful subtlety on the issue of slavery when he stated "so cunningly is it framed, that no one would have imagined that it recognized or sanctioned slavery. But having terrestrial origin, and not celestial origin, we find no difficulty in ascertaining its meaning in all the parts which we allege relate to slavery. . . ."⁷

The long-drawn-out battle fought by American Blacks was grounded in their endeavor to be included in "We the People," as put forth in the Preamble of the United States Constitution. Notwithstanding the war that the nation waged against itself and the abolition of slavery, American society systemically excluded Americans Blacks from "We the People" and regarded them as second-class citizens. Under the United States mandated system of racial exclusion, they were relegated to an existence of draconian justice.

After the Civil War, American Blacks experienced a brief period of seemingly inclusion in American society as the country sought to reconstruct itself. During the Reconstruction era, formerly enslaved persons of African descent not only gained their freedom through the Thirteenth Amendment, they also were accorded citizenship through the Fourteenth Amendment, adopted on July 9, 1868, and American Black males gained the right to vote through the Fifteenth Amendment, adopted on March 30, 1870. The year following the adoption of the Thirteenth Amendment, the United States Congress passed the nation's first Civil Rights Act in 1866. This act stated, "any citizen has the same right as a white citizen to make and enforce contracts, sue and be sued, give evidence in court, and inherit, purchase, lease, sell, hold, and convey real and personal property. The act guaranteed all citizens the "full and equal benefit of all laws and proceedings for the security of person and property, as is enjoyed by white citizens, and ... like punishment, pains, and penalties..." Persons who denied these rights because of race or previous enslavement were guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction faced a fine not exceeding \$1,000, or imprisonment not exceeding one year, or both. Using language very similar to that of the Equal Protection Clause in the newly proposed Fourteenth Amendment, the Act discussed the need to provide "reasonable protection to all persons in their constitutional rights of equality before the law." Five years later, the Ku Klux Klan Act of 1871⁸, also called the Civil Rights Act of 1871 or the Force Act of 1871 was one of several important Civil Rights Acts passed by Congress during Reconstruction. The act's intended purpose was to protect American Blacks from violence perpetrated by the Ku Klux Klan,

a white supremacist group. The civil provisions, or § 1985(3), remained generally unused until the 1971 U.S. Supreme Court decision *Griffin v. Breckenridge*⁹, the Court reaffirmed the original intention¹⁰ and ruled that the statute may allow a civil remedy for certain private conspiracies. The *Griffin* case concerned a 1966 incident in Mississippi in which a group of white men stopped a car out of suspicion that one of its three African-American occupants was a civil rights worker. The whites proceeded to beat and threaten the African Americans. The Court upheld one victim's claim that, under § 1985(3), the whites had engaged in a conspiracy to deny him the equal protection of the laws of the United States and Mississippi.¹¹

Four years after the passage of the 1871 Civil Rights Act, the Congress enacted the Civil Rights Act of 1875. The Civil Rights Act of 1875,¹² also known as the Enforcement Act or Force Act, was a federal law enacted during Reconstruction. This act guaranteed American Blacks equal treatment in public accommodations, public transportation, and prohibited exclusion from jury service. The Supreme Court of the United States declared the act unconstitutional in the Civil Rights Cases.¹³ The nation's highest tribunal held the Equal Protection Clause within the Fourteenth Amendment prohibits discrimination by the state, but does not give the federal government the power to prohibit discrimination by private individuals. The Court also held that the Thirteenth Amendment was meant to eliminate "the badge of slavery," but not to prohibit racial discrimination in public accommodations.¹⁴ The Civil Rights Act of 1875 was the last civil rights bill signed into law in the United States until the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1957. Two years later Reconstruction ended as the South redeemed itself. American Blacks entered the nadir as southern state after southern state instituted laws that restricted their civil rights and northern states practiced *de facto* racial segregation.

To completely subjugate and relegate American Blacks to their second-class status, in 1896 the United States Supreme Court enunciated its separate and [un]equal doctrine in the *Plessy v. Ferguson* decision. This decision would remain in force for almost two generations until the Supreme Court reversed the *Plessy* decision with the 1954 *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas* decision that desegregated public schools. As Frederick Douglass stated, "Power concedes nothing without a demand. It never did and it never will."¹⁶ A year after the U. S. Supreme Court's *Brown v. Board of Education* decision, the Montgomery Bus Boycott signaled a shift from litigating in the courts to a grassroots movement involving everyday ordinary citizens performing extraordinary actions of protests. The long-drawn-out journey to the 1964 Civil Rights Acts was becoming shorter, albeit as inimical as previous decades.

In a June 11, 1963 speech broadcast live on national television and radio, President John F. Kennedy unveiled plans to pursue a comprehensive civil rights bill in Congress, stating, "this nation, for all its hopes and all its boasts, will not be fully free until all its



PUBLICATIONS TO NOTE

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

Publications of The University of Arkansas Press, 105 McIlroy Avenue, Fayetteville, Arkansas 72701 include:

A Spectacular Leap: Black Women Athletes in Twentieth-Century America by Jennifer H. Lansbury is the story of Alice Coachman, Ora Washington, Althea Gibson, Wilma Rudolph, Wyomia Tyus, and Jackie Joyner-Kersey, all African American women athletes. These six women were noted in their fields of tennis, golf, basketball, and track and field. Washington was a champion tennis player and basketball star in the African American community during the 1920s. Coachman, Gibson, Rudolph, and Tyus attended Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs). The first African American woman to win an Olympic Gold medal (1948), Coachman is a 1946 alumna of Tuskegee Institute (now Tuskegee University) and a 1949 graduate of Albany State College (now Albany State University). Gibson, noted for her feats in tennis and golf, was graduated from Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University in 1953. Wilma Rudolph, considered the fastest woman in the world during the 1960s became the first American woman to win three consecutive Olympic Gold Medals in track and field during one Olympiad, was graduated from Tennessee A & I State University (now Tennessee State University) in 1963. Wyomia Tyus, a 1967 graduate from Tennessee A & I State University was the first Olympic sprint champion to win consecutive Olympic gold medals in 100-meter race. Jackie Joyner-Kersey earned the title of “world’s greatest female athlete” when she won six Olympic gold medals and set eight world records. Kersey’s emergence into the world of international track and field, with its million-dollar endorsement contract, was very different from the one in which Coachman, Rudolph, or Tyus participated. Lansbury, formerly an assistant professor of history and director of the sport and

American culture minor at George Mason University, adeptly used the biography of each athlete to illustrate African American women and their place in sport history, civil rights history and United States history. **Cloth, \$34.95.**

Publications of The University of Georgia Press, 320 South Jackson Street, Athens, Georgia 30602 include:

Michael Kreyling’s *A Late Encounter with the Civil War* confronts the changing nature of the nation’s relationship to the sesquicentennial of the Civil War. America formally remembered the 50th and 100th anniversaries of the Civil War, albeit from different perspectives. When significant anniversaries occur in the histories of groups such as families, businesses, or nations, members of the respective entities set aside time to formally remember their shared past. America is not the same country today when it commemorated the first two milestone anniversaries of the Civil War. As Kreyling, who is a professor of English at Vanderbilt University and author of *The South that Wasn’t There: Postsouthern Memory and History* (2010) reminds the reader, the president in office for the Civil War’s 150th anniversary represents a member of the race for whose emancipation from slavery the war was waged. The book’s three essays explore the conscious and unconscious mechanisms by which each era staged, wrote, and thought about the meaning of the Civil War. *A Late Encounter with the Civil War* is a challenging narrative of how Americans never recollect the war that almost split the nation 150 years ago the same way regardless of the specific era in which the remembrance takes place. This small tome is critical study for anyone captivated by the complicated interplay of history and memory. **Paper, \$19.95.**

Publications of University of Kentucky Press, 663 South Limestone Street, Lexington, Kentucky 40508-4008 include:

River of Hope: Black Politics and the Memphis Freedom Movement, 1865-1954 by Elizabeth Gritter. Memphis, Tennessee is known for the Delta Blues, home of Elvis Presley, and is infamously known as the city where the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was assassinated. However, Gritter, an assistant professor of history at Indiana University Southeast maintains, unlike many African Americans in the South during the early twentieth century, many in the Tennessee’s Bluff City had the right of the franchise. They sought reform at the ballot box, formed clubs, ran for office, and engaged in voter registration and education activities from the end of the Civil War through the 1954 *Brown v. Board of Education* U. S. Supreme Court decision. In this original investigation of the life and activities of civil rights activist, Robert R. Church, Jr., Gritter places his narrative into a broader context marked by the evolution of civil rights politics in Memphis, Tennessee. She illuminates, in particular Church, a wealthy Republican and founder of the Lincoln League, and Memphis political boss Edward H. Crump, a white Democrat and perhaps the most powerful political figure in Memphis from the time he became mayor in 1910 until his death in 1954. This work concentrates on the electoral process in an attempt to show how and why African Americans engaged in formal political mobilization during Memphis’s Jim Crow era and in other southern urban areas. This author’s pioneering volume contests enduring notions of a “Solid South” of white Democratic control by contending that the small but significant number of black southerners who retained the right to vote had more influence that scholars have heretofore assumed. For those interested in local civil rights studies, *River of Hope*



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provides fresh insight into the efforts of the individuals who laid the foundation for the civil rights victories of the 1950s and 1960s. It proffers a groundbreaking interpretation of how the civil rights movement fashioned Memphis and the American South. **Cloth, \$40.00**

The Civil War in Popular Culture: Memory and Meaning, edited by Lawrence A. Kreiser Jr., an associate professor of history at Stillman College, and Randal Allred, a professor of English at Brigham Young University-Hawaii, is another work published by the University Press of Kentucky. The editors analyze American depictions of the war across numerous mediums, from book and film, to monuments and battlefield reunions, to reenactments and board games. Divided into five sections, with articles written by fifteen contributors, this eclectic approach, examines how battle strategies, famous generals, and the nuances of Civil War politics translate into contemporary popular culture. Analogous to Michael Kreyling's *A Late Encounter with the Civil War*, the unique analysis in *The Civil War in Popular Culture* assesses the intersection of the Civil War and popular culture by recognizing how memories and commemoration of the American Civil War, which resulted in hundreds-of-thousands casualties and changed America's destiny, have changed since the war's ending in 1865. More than 150 years since the beginning of America's intersectional strife, the war between the North and the South continues to resonate in the country's collective memory. **Cloth, \$40.00**

Douglas V. Mastriano in his *Alvin York: A New Biography of the Hero of the Argonne* reveals both the complexity of York and the authenticity of his achievements on the battlefield. A conscientious objector and reluctant hero of World War I, Alvin C. York is one of America's most famous and celebrated soldiers, credited with the capture of 132 German soldiers on October 18, 1918, in the Meuse-Argonne region of France. Mastriano's *Alvin York* is the first full-length biography of the wartime hero in decades. Through visits to the Argonne

region and extensive research in both German and American archives, the author, a colonel in the United States Army and a combat veteran of Iraq (Desert Storm) and Afghanistan, has painstakingly reconstructed the events of that October day in 1918. By reviewing artifacts recovered from the battlefield alongside military terrain analysis, forensic study, and historical scrutiny, Mastriano corroborates the recorded accounts. This groundbreaking biography offers a complete portrait of Sergeant York's deeds and his place in history in light of recent discoveries. This work should be of interest to anyone who has a curiosity about the feats of Sergeant York and the "Great War." **Cloth, \$34.95**

The last work noted and published by University Press of Kentucky is *The Dunning School: Historians, Race, and the Meaning of Reconstruction* edited by John David Smith and J. Vincent Lowery, with a foreword by Eric Foner, the DeWitt Clinton Professor of History at Columbia University. From the late nineteenth century until the First World War, a group of Columbia University students gathered under the mentorship of historian William Archibald Dunning. Dunning's students constituted the first generation of university-trained historians to study the eon of Reconstruction. Some who wrote dissertations on Reconstruction under Dunning included James W. Garner, Walter Lynwood Fleming, J. G. deRoulhac Hamilton, Charles W. Ramsdell, C. Mildred Thompson, William Watson Davis, and Thomas S. Staple. Most of Dunning's students were Southerners, many of whom were supporters of the "Lost Cause." Characterized as the Dunning School, these early twentieth century works followed the prevailing southern ideas about race. Without imparting today's standards on the past, the Dunning School can be noted for its important contributions to much of the twentieth century's thought that dominated historical writing and public consciousness. Not only did his students produce dissertations, they subsequently published books, narrating the history of

Reconstruction in various southern states. As Mark L. Bradley notes in his *Bluecoats and Tar Heels: Soldiers and Civilians in North Carolina* (2009), the Dunning interpretation in the 1930s and 1940s also "received compelling treatment in such popular works as Claude Bowers's *The Tragic Era* and Margaret Mitchell's *Gone with the Wind*—both the best-selling novel and the blockbuster film (p. 268), as well as George Fort Milton's *The Age of Hate: Andrew Johnson and the Radicals* published in 1930. Another Columbia professor and a founder of the modern discipline of political science, John W. Burgess, influenced Dunning and his students. Edited by the award-winning historian John David Smith, who is the Charles H. Stone Distinguished Professor of American History at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte and J. Vincent Lowery, an assistant professor of history of the University of Wisconsin—Green Bay, *The Dunning School* concentrates on this controversial group of historians and its scholarly productivity. According to Eric Foner, "the fundamental flaw in the Dunning School was the authors' deep racism." As most of the essays note, the Dunning School's view regarding race reflected the zeitgeist's prevailing provincial sentiments. Notwithstanding, alternative interpretations of Reconstruction were presented in the early twentieth century. In 1910 Harvard educated historian William Edward Burghardt DuBois had his classic article "Reconstruction and Its Benefits" published in the *American Historical Review*. Three years later, John R. Lynch, an African American veteran of Reconstruction and the first African-American Speaker of the Mississippi House of Representatives, published *The Facts of Reconstruction* and several articles criticizing the Dunning School historiography. Lynch argued that Dunning and his followers emphasized the view of the former slave owners and characteristically mitigated any positive contributions made by African American during Reconstruction, as well as suggesting that they could not manage any



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political power. He further contended that African Americans did make substantial contributions during the Reconstruction era. *The Dunning School: Historians, Race, and the Meaning of Reconstruction* provides pioneering studies of the authors of the first scholarly histories of Reconstruction in Southern states. It investigates the progression of historical interpretation over time and informs the ways in which contemporary political, racial, and social interrogations construct historical studies and analyses. No other work assesses the entire body of Dunning scholarship. Smith and Lowery through their eleven contributing scholars provides a significant contribution to not only the historiography of Reconstruction, but also to southern intellectual history, the history of the historical profession, as well as the study of race, racism, and progressivism in America. Cloth, \$40.00

Publications of The University of Tennessee Press, 600 Henley Street, Conference Center Building, Suite 110, Knoxville, Tennessee 37996-4108 include:

The Dairy of Nannie Boskins Williams: A Southern Woman's Story of Rebellion and Reconstruction, 1863-1890 edited by Minota D. Uffelman, Ellen Kanervo, Phyllis Smith, and Eleanor Williams. A part of the Voices of the Civil War series, the unique narrative of *The Dairy of Nannie Boskins Williams* is that extends from the early stages of the Civil War through 1890. Previously separated, the editors of this tome have reunited and merged Williams' divided writings. Born into a prominent antebellum family and reared within sight of the Cumberland River, she was an ardent Confederate, whose experiences came from the zeitgeist

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citizens are free."¹⁷ However, before Kennedy and the Congress could bring the proposed civil rights legislation to fruition, Lee Harvey Oswald assassinated Kennedy on November 22, 1963. Following Kennedy's assassination, newly inaugurated Lyndon B. Johnson continued to press for the bill's passage.

Just prior to the Civil Rights Act of 1964 passing the United States Congress in June of that year, Robert Moses, director of the Council of Federated Organizations, a coalition of organizations led by SNCC capitalized on the successful use of white student volunteers in Mississippi during a 1963 mock election call the "Freedom Vote." He proposed that northern white student volunteers take part in a large number of simultaneous local campaigns in Mississippi during the summer of 1964. Given the appellation Freedom Summer, volunteers began training at Western College for Women in Oxford, Ohio, on June 14, 1964. Publicized as a campaign in the Deep South to register American Blacks to vote, Freedom Summer garnered approximately 1,000 volunteers, the majority were white northern college students from middle and upper class backgrounds. Although American Black men won the right to vote in 1870 due to the ratification and enactment of the Fifteenth Amendment, for the next 100-years local and state officials systematically excluded them from the voting box thereby prohibiting them from casting their ballots and having a voice in their governance. They used formal

of Clarksville, in Middle Tennessee. Editors Uffelman, an associated professor of history at Austin Peay State University, Kanervo, professor emerita of communications at Austin Peay State University, Smith, who teaches high school science in Montgomery County, and Williams, the Montgomery County historian, combined the postwar dairy from the holding at the University of North Carolina with the war dairy from the Tennessee State Archives. By doing so, the editors provides the reader the opportunity to delve into the mind of a young Nannie Williams during the Civil War, while at the same time observing the account of an older Williams as she struggled to acclimate to the forces of Reconstruction and beyond. This fervent Confederate woman's account reflects the disruption that the Civil War brought to many in the South, while the postwar diary displays a good deal of pessimism but also demonstrates Williams's eventual mellowing. While this diary has been well known in Middle Tennessee, and even received national recognition when noted in Ken Burns' 1990 documentary, *The Civil War*, the unique voice of Williams has not been heard in its entirety until the publication of *The Dairy of Nannie Boskins Williams: A Southern Woman's Story of Rebellion and Reconstruction, 1863-1890*. Similar to *In the Shadow of the Enemy: The Civil War Journal of Ida Powell Dulany*, this work is a fascinating addition to the Voices of the Civil War series, and is certain to grab the attention of not only scholars and students of the era but also those with an interest in women's history and local history. Paper, \$24.95.

methods such as poll taxes and literacy tests and malicious methods of fear and intimidation that included beatings and lynchings. One week after the first group of volunteers arrived in Oxford, members of the Ku Klux Klan murdered James Chaney, an African American from Mississippi, and two white northerners, Michael Schwerner and Andrew Goodman in the night on Father's Day June 21, 1964.¹⁸ The murders of the three civil rights workers made headlines across the country and triggered an outpouring of national support for the Civil Rights Movement.

After years of litigating through the courts, mounting boycotts, staging protesting marches, economic withdrawals, marching on Washington, voter registration drives, and all other manifestations of protest by American Blacks, the Civil Rights Act of 1964 passed the United States Congress on July 2, 1964.¹⁹ President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the act into law on the same day.²⁰ The Civil Rights Act of 1964 is the country's hallmark civil rights legislation. The act prohibits discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, or national origin. Its passage terminated the application of "Jim Crow" laws upheld by the Supreme Court in the 1896 case, which held that racial segregation purported to be "separate but equal" was constitutional. While the legislation

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CASTALIAN SPRINGS HISTORIC VILLAGE PROTECTED

BY MARTHA D. AKINS
Historic Sites Program Director

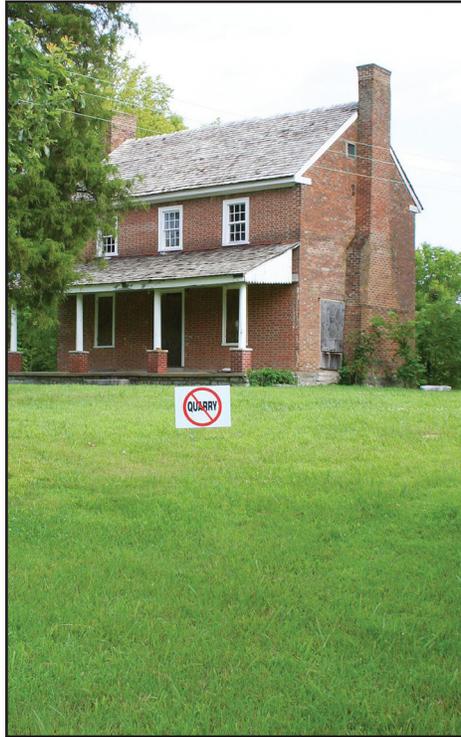
On May 5, 2014, the Court of Appeals of Tennessee heard the case of Western Farm Products, LLC v. Sumner County. In effect, Western Farm Products has been denied its request to build a quarry in a rural agricultural area dotted with very significant historic sites.

**"Here is your country. Cherish these natural wonders, cherish the natural resources, cherish the history and romance as a sacred heritage, for your children and your children's children. Do not let selfish men or greedy interests skin your country of its beauty, its riches or its romance."
— THEODORE ROOSEVELT**

In 2011 a quarry operation under the guise of a farming company purchased 350 acres of pristine farm land in the Castalian Springs Historic Village, a complex of historic places owned by the State, Sumner County, and a non-profit organization. Once residents discovered that Western Farm Products, LLC, was actually Brentwood-based Hoover, Inc., word quickly spread about the proposed quarry and its deleterious effects.

In a Question-and-Answer session, Hoover's attorney Tom White touted the plans as a benefit to the community, creating jobs and tax revenue. Heated debate ensued as residents and other concerned citizens wanted answers about the effects of blasting, dust, and heavy vehicular traffic to their homes, property values, air quality, and the sensitive historic resources in the area.

The groundwork for protection of the community and its historic character was laid when Tennessee Historical Commission's Martha Akins, State Historic Sites Program Director, met with Sumner County's planning staff early on to include the state's preservation plan for the area in its 2035 Comprehensive Plan. The Sumner County Commission passed the plan before Western Farm Products



Hawthorn Hill State Historic Site, most threatened by the rock quarry, sits very near the quarry's proposed haul road. Heavy traffic and blasting would have been detrimental to the historic, irreplaceable painted plaster on the interior. In addition, the quarry would have destroyed the pastoral viewshed, sitting across the road from the historic site. (Photo Credit: Martha D. Akins)

purchased the land.

In front of a standing room only crowd, Sumner County Zoning Board denied Western Farm Products' application for a conditional use permit it requested in July 2011. The land is currently zoned residential R1A, and the company needed the permit so that it could build and operate a rock quarry, rock-crushing plant, quarry spoils area and concrete plant.

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HISTORIC PLACES

UPDATE

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

TENNESSEE SUPREME COURT BUILDING
in Davidson County

HAPPY HOLLER HISTORIC DISTRICT
in Knox County

MEAD MARBLE QUARRY
in Knox County

ROSS MARBLE QUARRY
in Knox County

MARTIN-DOBYNS HOUSE
in Sullivan County

GRAND GUITAR
in Sullivan County

BLOUNTVILLE HISTORIC DISTRICT
(Boundary Increase)
in Sullivan County

There are now 2,116 entries in the National Register from Tennessee including 278 districts for a total of 42,247 resources now listed.

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Not satisfied with the decision, Western Farm Products filed an appeal stating that the zoning board's decision was "illegal, arbitrary, and/or capricious." However, in June of 2013, Chancery Court Chancellor Tom Gray found that "the Board did not act illegally, arbitrarily, or fraudulently, and did not exceed its jurisdiction or act without material evidence." Consequently, the petition was dismissed.

As expected, Western Farm Products appealed to the State of Tennessee Court of Appeals. The State of Tennessee filed an amicus curiae brief in support of Sumner County. The amicus curiae, literally "friend of the court," is someone who is not a party in the case but has information bearing on the case. Outlined specifically were the state-owned historic sites in the area that would be impacted by a rock quarry and associated operations. Wynnewood State Historic Site, which served as a mineral

resort, contains a circa 1830 log structure and numerous outbuildings, including other log cabins, barns, smoke houses, spring house, kitchen, and mineral springs pump house. Hawthorn Hill State Historic Site is a circa 1800 Federal style brick dwelling that served as home to early settler Colonel Humphrey Bate (War of 1812) and "Dean of the Grand Ole Opry" Humphrey Bate, as well as the birthplace of Governor William Brimage Bate. Purchased by the State in 2008, Hawthorn Hill is undergoing an extensive restoration and is expected to be open to the public next year. Cragfont State Historic Site is a circa 1802 stone dwelling that served as home to General James Winchester, early settler in Middle Tennessee, War of 1812 veteran, and one of the founders of Memphis, TN. The Castalian Springs Mounds State Historic Site, not open to the public, is the site of an 1100-1450 A.D. Mississippian village containing

archaeological remains of a platform mounds, burial mound, plaza, dwellings, and civic structures. Other state interest in the area includes 164-acre Bledsoe Creek State Park. Sumner County-owned Bledsoe's Fort Historic Park is an eighty-acre park that contains archaeological remains of the earliest fort in the area. Thus, many historic resources were at risk.

Earlier this year both parties presented their arguments, and within three months came the opinion which upheld the Chancery Court's decision. Western Farm Products has sixty days from May 5th to appeal to the Tennessee Supreme Court, which chooses if hearing the case is warranted.

To read the opinion filed by the court on May 5, 2014, please go to this link: http://tncourts.gov/.../westernfarmv.sumner_co.opn.pdf

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was directed specifically at removing barriers to equal access and opportunity that affected American Blacks, it greatly extended the reach of federal protection. It led to a major restructuring of the nation's sense of justice and expanded legal protections to other minority groups. Beneficiaries of the American Black struggle for freedom included women, the disabled, gays and lesbians, the elderly, and others who experienced discrimination. Eventually the Congress expanded the 1964 Civil Rights Act to strengthen enforcement of these fundamental civil rights. The 1964 Civil Rights Act paved the way for future anti-discrimination

legislation, including the Voting Rights Act of 1965 and the Civil Rights Act of 1968 better known as the Fair Housing Act.

Notwithstanding the progress African Americans made during the pinnacle of the Modern Civil Rights Movement, as Coretta Scott King, a civil and human rights activist in her own right stated, "Struggle is a never ending process. Freedom is never really won; you earn it and win it in every generation. That is what we have not taught young people, or older ones for that matter. You do not finally win a state of freedom that is protected forever. It doesn't work that way."²¹

¹ Don Cusic. *James Weldon Johnson Songwriter*. Nashville: Brackish Publishing, 2013. P.25

² Martin Luther King, Jr. *Letter from a Birmingham Jail*, 1963.

³ Derrick Bell. *Silent Covenants: Brown v. Board of Education and the Unfulfilled Hope for Racial Reform*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2004. p. 49

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⁵ John Hope Franklin and Evelyn Brooks Higginbotham. *From Slavery to Freedom: A History of African Americans*, Ninth Edition. New York: McGraw Hill, 2011. Pp.100-101.

⁶ *Ibid.*

⁷ Frederick Douglass, "The Constitution and Slavery", *North Star*, March 16, 1849; Phillip S. Foner, editor. *Frederick Douglass: Selected Speeches and Writings*. Chicago: Chicago Review Press, 2000. P.130.

⁸ Ch. 22, 17 Stat. 13 [codified as amended at 18 U.S.C.A. § 241, 42 U.S.C.A. §§ 1983, 1985(3), and 1988]

⁹ 403 U.S. 88, 91 S. Ct. 1790, 29 L. Ed. 2d 338 in *Griffin*

¹⁰ § 1985(3)

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¹³ 1883

¹⁴ *Ibid.*

¹⁵ *Ibid.*

¹⁶ The Significance of Emancipation in the West Indies." Speech, Canandaigua, New York, August 3, 1857, in *The Frederick Douglass Papers. Series One: Speeches, Debates, and Interviews*. Volume 3: 1855-63. Edited by John W. Blassingame. New Haven: Yale University Press, p. 204.

¹⁷ John F. Kennedy, "President Kennedy's Radio-TV Address on Civil Rights," *Congressional Quarterly* (14 June 1963): 970-971.

¹⁸ http://mlk-kpp01.stanford.edu/index.php/encyclopedia/encyclopedia/enc_freedom_summer_1964 Accessed May 12, 2014;

http://mscivilrightsproject.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=312:the-murder-of-chaney-goodman-and-schwerner&Itemid=58 Accessed May 12, 2014

¹⁹ <http://www.judiciary.senate.gov/about/history/CivilRightsAct.cfm> accessed January 20, 2014. Linda T. Wynn. "Civil Rights Act of 1964," in *Freedom Facts and Firsts: 400 Years of the African American Civil Rights Experience*, Jessie Carney Smith and Linda T. Wynn. Canton, MI. Visible Ink Press, 2009. Pp.168-170.

²⁰ *Ibid.*

²¹ Coretta Scott King. *My Life with Martin Luther King, Jr.* New York, Holt, Rinehart and Winston, 1969. P. xiii



The Tennessee Contraband Conundrum: 1862-1865. A Documentary Narrative.

PART 1 OF 5

BY JAMES B. JONES, JR. ©

Of the many commonalities in the southern states during the Civil War was that of the contrabands. These were essentially runaway slaves, who, upon learning of the close proximity of the Union army, would leave their life as enslaved peoples essentially freeing themselves from chattel slavery. Instead of waiting for Abraham Lincoln, or Federal armies to set them free from enslavement, they took the opportunity and freed themselves. That is, the slaves freed the slaves. One example, the story of “Peter” demonstrates the harsh punishment of slaves and their eagerness to take on contraband status:

....my master’s name was Jim Brazier, an I lived eight miles from Tullahoma. My mother was sickly a long time, and missus wouldn’t let her stop workin’ no how. An’ one day wen’ she’s so weak, she let a big pitcher fall ont’ de floor and brokt it, and master sent her to de whippin’-house, and’ she died that night. I slept wid’ her, an’ she told me wen she comed to bed, dat she t’ought if she went to sleep shed never wake.

An’ in de morning’ wen I waked, she was stone dead. Dey neber said anything to me ‘bout what killed her, de knowed berry well dat I knowed de reason. Atter de war brokt out, de telled me that I mustn’t go near the Yankees, for dat dey “had horns,” just as if I’d not sense ‘nough to know better nor dat! [sic] An’ dey tole me I must keep ‘way from dem, else dey’s cut off my ears and hang me on a tree. But arter dey’s whipped me and hung me up by my thumbs, for bitin’ missus, when she had me down on de floor an’ was poundin’ me ‘cause I didn’t sweep clean, I runned away”

“I’d been wid master three times wen he’d been to camp to sell apples and things to the Yankees, an’ so I knowed whar to go. [added] So one night I tuk one o’ masrster’s hosses an’ put a bridle on him, an’ rode him most to camp, so near, I could hear de pickets; den I fixed up de bridle, arater [sic] I got off, an’ set him off on a right smart trot toward home, an’ hid in de bushes. Den I waited till mornin’ which comed pretty soon, and I tole de picket I wanted to come in camp. He let me in, and’ I’s e roun’ two or three days, wen Dr. Woodward said he’d see me to the keep on me, an’ he has ever since. He brought me here [to the Nashville contraband camp]. He allays been right good to me an’ nerer gin me a cross word.

....One morning, soon after, Dr. W. announced to Peter that his former master had just been hanged as a guerrilla. The account was in the morning paper.

“Glad of it,” said Peter, emphatically; “I’d a be glad ef dat ar’ had a happened afore. He made me carry letters to the rebels tellin’ ‘em all ‘bout whar de Yankees was, good ‘nough [sic] for him.”¹

Contrabands would “hang on” to Union troops, offering to work for soldiers, yet there was a problem. They were considered property and Union officers had no idea what to do with them, were they slaves, still the property of a plantation master, or free people? To put a name on them they were called contraband, although not regarded as citizens or freemen but runaway slaves. Was the army responsible for keeping them, feeding them, clothing and housing the contrabands? Certainly the worth of these disposed people would be realized in

terms of fighting with the Federal armies as United States Colored Troops (USCT), cooks, teamsters and hospital orderlies. Nevertheless there were more of them than could be employed or enlist in the army. In time they would congregate near cities and would be fed with US army rations, which put a drag on the Federal army’s own logistical issues and local governments. What, aside from the outstanding work done as USCT, did they do during Tennessee’s participation in the Civil War?²

As early as 1861 the Federal Government recognized the problem freed Negroes could have on Union troops. On August 6, 1861 it passed the Contraband Negroes Act August 6, 1861 outlawing “the use of slaves...for making war against America.”³ The two Emancipation Proclamations (September 22, 1862 and January 1, 1863) announced that all slaves in Confederate territory were free. Those Negroes under the control of the Union were still enslaved.⁴ By the time of the 1862 proclamation bondsmen in West Tennessee were declared no longer considered constrained by enslavement.⁵ This, along with the close proximity of the Union arm, gave plantation slaves a green light to abandon their homes and head for the city of Memphis.

“In August 1862... so many destitute fugitive slaves surrounded (Grant’s) army that he ordered Chaplain John Eaton to establish a contraband camp system throughout the Mississippi Valley to house, feed, and put them to work on abandoned lands.” Eaton established the first Tennessee contraband camp at Grand Junction, Tennessee, and in 1864 there were large contraband camps at Clarksville, Pulaski Hendersonville, Murfreesboro, Edgefield, Nashville, Knoxville, Chattanooga, Memphis Summerville, Shiloh, and Brownsville,

**Contraband...continued from page 17**

Tennessee. The 'Shiloh' contraband camp in Memphis alone had over 300 log cabins and 2,000 residents."⁶ It was characterized by broad streets "and a much healthier climate."⁷ By July 5 Grant had contrabands working on the erection of Fort Pickering, South of Memphis.⁸

What should be the policy for these ex-slaves? Were they under the definition of freedmen or property? The first official authorization to employ African Americans in federal service was the Second Confiscation and Militia Act of July 17, 1862. This law allowed President Abraham Lincoln to receive into the military service persons of African descent and gave permission to use them for any purpose thought by military commanders to be best for the public welfare. However, the President did not authorize use of African Americans in combat until issuance of the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863. Runaway slaves, thousands in numbers, fled from rebel held territory, upon their own volition, to Memphis after learning of the Proclamations ending slavery.

There were too many ex-slaves to sustain. In 1863, Major General S. A. Hurlbut in command in Memphis wrote to President Lincoln that he was "embarrassed with the runaways from their Tennessee masters. They come here in a state of destitution, especially the women and children. He cannot send them back, and I advise their employment as far as possible by the quartermaster, and the general is authorized by Gen. Grant to hire them to citizens who will give proper bonds."⁹

He wrote to President Lincoln: "I avail myself of the fact that Mr. Leatherman, a prominent citizen of Memphis, is about to visit Washington, to lay before the Commander-in-Chief the serious difficulties which embarrass the citizens of this region, as well as the army, in relation to negroes. There are within the limits of my command about 5,000 negroes, male and female, of all ages, supported by the Government, independent of those regularly organized and employed as teamsters, cooks, pioneers, &c., and enrolled as such. Most of these, say, from two-thirds to three-fourths, are women and children, incapable of army labor-

weight and encumbrance. In addition, there is a very large number, not less in Memphis alone than 2,000, not supported by the Government, crowded into all vacant sheds and houses, living by begging or vice, the victims of fruitful sources of contagion and pestilence. Pilfering and small crimes are of daily occurrence among them, and I see nothing before them but disease and death. "At the same time many valuable farms and plantations within our lines, despoiled of fences from the necessities of a winter campaign, deprived of customary servile labor, stripped of horses and mules, either from the needs of regular service or by marauding guerrillas, lie waste and desolate. The owners are ready to cultivate, but have no labor. It is spring, the time to put in crops, either of cotton or of corn, or, what is not least in a military point of view, those garden vegetables, the free use of which is so singularly beneficial to the health of an army. None of these things are done, except on a limited scale. "The land is here, ready, the labor is here, but I know no authority which I possess to bring them together. There are many who point out and desire to hire those who were their slaves. I have no power to permit it, or, rather, none to enforce the contract if entered into. "There were neither civil nor criminal courts, and, hence, the responsibility of the commanding officer, already burdensome enough, was heightened by the want of aid from legal tribunals. Hurlbut continued:

I believe, from careful examination and partial reflection, that the condition of the fugitives would be improved in every respect by causing them to be hired, either for wages or for clothing, subsistence, or an equivalent in the crops, to such persons as would give bond to take care of them, and put them at such work as they can do, and enforcing the contract of hire on the parties. It is, however, not to be denied that a very serious risk must be run in so doing. The spirit of marauding and robbery, which gave rise to guerrilla parties, grows

by use, and there is danger that they may be seized and run off to some portion of the South as yet not under our control, or it may be that parties obtaining them may misuse their power over them, although I feel less apprehension of the latter. If the fugitives now lurking about Memphis could return to their homes in the city and vicinity, and their former owners would receive them and treat them kindly until the final determination of their status, much of the misery and vice which infest the city and vicinage would be removed.¹⁰

In the then current anomalous situation of the State of Tennessee--neither exactly loyal nor altogether disloyal, but yet wholly deprived of all the machinery by which civil government operated--it was impossible for any one to say whether the state of slavery existed or not. According to Hurlbut: "The laws of Tennessee recognize and establish it, but the law is in abeyance; no judges to interpret and administer, no sheriff to execute, no posse to enforce. The State is exempted from the effects of the proclamation, but the military authorities, both from choice and under orders, ignore the condition of slavery. If they come within our lines, we allow them to do so, if they voluntarily go out, we allow; and all this works no difficulty when troops are in the field in their limited camps; but when the lines inclose a vast space of country, or fence in, as here, a great city, this incursion of ungoverned persons, without employment and subject to no discipline, becomes vitally serious. Especially the police and administration of justice are thrust upon officers of the army. The evil is pressing, the necessity for prompt action paramount, both from feelings of humanity to the people around us and to relieve the army from this burden. I have not considered myself at liberty to adopt any course. It is difficult for me to reach my department commander, and it is doubtful whether his pressing duties would leave him time to decide. It was

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**Contraband...continued from page 18**

hoped Congress would adopt some plan of the kind. This has not been done. The question is one not purely military, and I respectfully submit to the President the establishment of some general rule by which this difficulty may be overcome."¹¹

Some seventy percent of Tennessee's Negroes lived in West Tennessee, and headed to Memphis, then under control of Grant's army."¹²

A report in the *Chicago Times* of June 8, 1862, painted the following picture of the swelling contraband population in Memphis:

Numerous specimens of the darkey [sic] tribe are afloat in the vicinity, the majority of which are runaway slaves. The officers are well waited upon at a small expense, as the darkeys [sic], ignorant of the value of their services, are willing to serve an indefinite time, with the prospect of being their own master by-and-by. Little counter-jumping warriors, who never dreamed of such distinction while plying their trade at home, are waited upon by ebony servitors who quake with fear at the sound of their voices, and stand in perpetual dread of being hung up by the neck or flayed alive for petty misdemeanors... None of them have any idea of the North, except that it is not the South. I asked one how many slaves his master had, and he said "fifteen or forty."

Another...giving his reasons for joining the army, said his 'massa done run'd away, an' he spec he scare to def, so he clar'd out fur de Yankees.' One bright and shining light, conversing on the subject, remarked that 'White folks have to look out mighty sharp for dem niggers. Either got to feed 'em a heap of vittals, or dey'll steal, eberyting yer got....De good niggers [sic] stay to home.'....Almost all who get into the army are induced to enter the line of march by tired soldiers, who, seeing a stout nigger [sic] by the roadside, cannot well resist the

temptation of loading their knapsacks and guns upon him, and trotting him along as a pack-horse. Once away from their masters they keep with the army, and will eventually escape.¹³

One Federal private, Cyrus F. Boyd, from Iowa left comment on accommodations at the Memphis camp in late January, 1862: "Saw a camp of Contrabands containing old and young 1500 [sic], and they were packed into a building about 200 X 150 feet[.] They were a mass of filthy and abandoned creatures[.]"¹⁴ He wrote:

Contrabands, (a new name for the negro slaves) are building forts around here and felling trees across the road to keep the enemy's cavalry from surprising us. A good many soldiers and people are bitterly opposed to having "niggers" take any part in the War. I am not one of those kind of people. If a culled [sic] man will dig trenches and chop lumber and even fight the enemy he is just the fellow we want and the sooner we recognize this the quicker the war will end.¹⁵

Just how anxious enslaved African Americans were to be rid their situation can be seen in another observation in the Boyd diary:

A large foraging expedition composed of the 16th In [sic] which has been gone four or five days returned last evening and brought back with them 400 "contrabands" 30 mules, 12 wagons and a large amount of other captures[.] This morning the camp was alive with colored men and women and children hunting situations in the Brigade as cooks or any kind of servants for "de [sic] Union boys [.]" Our company took three big strong darkies [sic] to cook[.] But one of them ran away before noon and the other two look as if they would run any time[.] They were

too much overjoyed [sic] at the idea of being free and well they may be....¹⁶

That the slaves were not loyal servants of their masters is seen in the following description from a house servant at the time of the "Great Panic in Nashville" (February, 1862), as Federal forces approached to occupy the city. Aunt Nanny gave the following description of the scene at a banker's house at which she worked as a house servant. She spoke to a white school teacher, Elvira J. Powers, sometime after the alarm. As the Union forces arrived the white masters were on their way to church:

And the streets were soon filled with half-crazed people flying here and there, women and children and even men running out of breath, and screaming, "The Yankees are coming," while the less excited ones were securing every possible conveyance to use for flight.

"We colored folks," said Nanny, "knew it in the night, and all de mornin' while de white ones was so quiet a putin' on dere finery for church, we knew it wouldn't last long. An' we was all so full wid de great joy, dat we'se a sayin' in our hearts all de time "Bless de Lord," "Thank de good God," for de "day of jubilee has come!" [sic]

"But we was mighty hush, an' put on just as long faces as we could, and was might 'sprized when they told us of it. An' missus she come runnin' back from the street wid' her bonnet on her neck, an' the strings a flyin', and she come to the kitchen and put up both arms and she said:-

"'Oh, Aunty Nanny, we'll all be killed! The Yankees are coming! They'll hang or cut the throat of every nigger [sic] that's left here!"

"An' after that she tried to have me go south with her, but I told her I'd risk the Yankees a killin' us, and I wouldn't go."¹⁷

**Contraband...continued from page 19**

A reporter for the *New York Times* was struck by the sight of the contrabands. They were an orderly, well-mannered people who worked faithfully and made no disturbance. While they worked more steadily than white workers they did not work as briskly. The officer overseeing large squads at work on Nashville's fortifications convinced him that they did quite as much as any white laborers. The savings in pay, from the lower wages of the Negroes over white labor, amounted to a thousand dollars a day to the department of the Cumberland. It was a signal fact

that along with the occupation of the city by Union forces, the Negroes at once began to open schools for themselves. I met companies of the neatly dressed, bright little black children going regularly to school. A bookseller says that he sold many more spelling books in a short time than he has done before for years in Nashville.¹⁸

Ms. Elvira Powers remarked on the progress of her contraband students at the Refugee farm. The ages of the student body ranged from four to thirty. According to her the negro pupils were quite apt in their lessons and learning. Some had even learned the alphabet in three days, others within a week.

...I will confess my belief that were I to teach in this school very long, I might become so interested in some of my pupils I should sometimes forget that they were not of the same color as myself, and really believe that God did make of one blood all nations of the earth.

They present every shade of color from the blackest hue to a fairer skin than my own. It is often necessary to find out who the mother is before you know whether the person is white or black....

The progress of some is really astonishing. One little black girl of

seven years, and with wooly head, can read fluently in the Fourth Reader, and studies primary, geography, and arithmetic, who has been to school but one year. I inquired if any one taught her at home, if she had not learned how to read before that time. "Oh, no, I learned my letters when I first came to school, and I live with my aunt Mary, and she can't read. She's no kin to me, and I haven't any kin, but I call her aunt."

Perhaps she never had any, or is related to Topsey, and if questioned farther, might say she "speaks she grew." A boy about twelve, who has been to school but nine months, and who learned his letters in that time, reads in the Third Reader and studies geography. Some are truly polite. The first day of my taking charge of one of the division, a delicate featured, brown-skinned little girl of about nine years came to me and said with the sweetest voice and manner: --

"Lady will you please tell me you name?"

I did so, when she thanked me and said: --

"Miss P_____ can you please hear our Third Reader this morning." It was not an idle question either, for the school is so large that now, while two of the teachers are absent, from illness, some of the classes are each day necessarily neglected. And so eager are the generality of the pupils to learn, that most of them are in two or three reading and spelling classes at the same time.

END PART I.**END NOTES**

- ¹ Elvira J. Powers, *Hospital Pencillings* [sic]; *Being a Diary While in Jefferson General Hospital, Jeffersonville, Ind., and Others at Nashville, Tennessee, As Matron and Visitor*, (Edward L. Mitchel: 24 Congress Street: Boston, 1866) 116-117. [Hereinafter: *Powers, Pencillings, etc.*] For a more general treatment of this topic see: Stephen V. Ashe, *The Black Experience in the Civil War* (London:2010), pp. 82-90; and Bobby Lovett, Diss., University of Arkansas, 1978, "The Negro in Tennessee, 1861-1866: A Socio-Military History of the Civil War," pp. 13-123. [Hereinafter: "Negro in Tennessee."]
- ² Bobby Lovett, "The Civil War in Tennessee: An African American Perspective." *Tennessee State of the Nation*, eds. W. Calvin Dickinson and Larry H. Whiteaker, pp. 105 -112, 2nd ed. New York: American Heritage, 1978, p. 107.[Hereinafter: Lovett, "African-America Perspective."]
- ³ Lovett, "African-American Perspective" p.107
- ⁴ Ibid.
- ⁵ Ibid.
- ⁶ Ibid.
- ⁷ Lovett, "The Negro in Tennessee," p. 25
- ⁸ OR, Ser. I, Vol. 17, pt. II, p. 82. See also:<http://www.archives.gov/education/lessons/blacks-civil-war/article.html>. See also Lovett, "Negro in Tennessee," p. 25.
- ⁹ OR, Ser. III, Vol. 3, p. 116.
- ¹⁰ OR, Ser. I, Vol. 24, pt. III, pp. 149-150. See also: OR, Ser. III, Vol. 3, p. 116.
- ¹¹ OR, Ser. I, Vol. 24, pt. III, pp. 149-150. See also: OR, Ser. III, Vol. 3, p. 116.
- ¹² OR, Ser. I, Vol. 17, pt. II, p. 82.
- ¹³ *Chicago Times*, June 3, 1862.
- ¹⁴ "Madeline Thorne, ed., *The Civil War Diary of Cyrus F. Boyd: Fifteenth Iowa Infantry*, (State Historical Society of Iowa, 1953), entry for January 13, 1863. [Hereinafter cited as *Boyd Diary*.]
- ¹⁵ *Boyd Diary*, entry for August 24, 1862.
- ¹⁶ *Ibid* entry for August 30, 1862.
- ¹⁷ Powers, *Pencillings*, pp. 14-19.
- ¹⁸ *New York Times*, August 21, 1863.