



# TENNESSEE CIVIL WAR NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA NEWS

• Telling the Whole Story of America's Greatest Challenge, 1860-1875 •

Fall 2006

<http://histpres.mtsu.edu/tncivwar>

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## Heritage Center Opens Its Doors

The Heritage Center of Murfreesboro and Rutherford County opened its doors this fall to visitors and residents alike, using exhibits, tours, and public programs to tell the stories of downtown Murfreesboro as a Civil War battlefield and key federal occupation base.

The Heritage Center's first exhibit, *The Occupied City* presents rarely seen photographs of the town and historic square from the mid-1860s. These fascinating images were taken by an unknown photographer and discovered three years ago in Colorado. The exhibit also pinpoints key heritage resources—from Murfree Springs to Oaklands Mansion to Stones River National Battlefield—where middle Tennessee visitors can experience the historical landscape and learn first-hand about how the Civil War and Reconstruction transformed Murfreesboro and Rutherford County.

The Heritage Center is a joint venture

between the Tennessee Civil War National Heritage Area, Main Street Murfreesboro/Rutherford County, Inc., the City of Murfreesboro, and the Center for Historic



The Heritage Center was unveiled at Evening on Main Street. From left, Larry and Marilyn Castelli, Mary Beth Wilson, Melinda Stafford, and Van West.

Preservation at Middle Tennessee State University. Additional operating support comes from the

Rutherford County government and State Farm Insurance. The Heritage Center is also home to Main Street Murfreesboro, a key non-profit institution which has encouraged the preservation of the city's historic downtown business district.

Heritage Area staffers Melissa Zimmerman and Jennifer Butt, and student assistants Brian Heffron and Linley Moreland, are there most days to provide information, present tours of the historic square and other downtown landmarks, and encourage visitors and residents to take greater advantage of the educational and recreational resources of the Tennessee Civil War story. The Heritage Center is at 225 West College Street, just west of the courthouse square. This fall, it is open 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Tuesday through Friday. Come and visit whenever you are in Murfreesboro.



*The Occupied City* serves as the Heritage Center's cornerstone exhibit.



The Tennessee Civil War National Heritage Area (TCWNHA) is a statewide program dedicated to the interpretation and preservation of Tennessee's Civil War and Reconstruction resources. Partially funded by the National Park Service, the TCWNHA is one of several projects administered by the Center for Historic Preservation at Middle Tennessee State University.

#### **Tennessee Civil War National Heritage Area**

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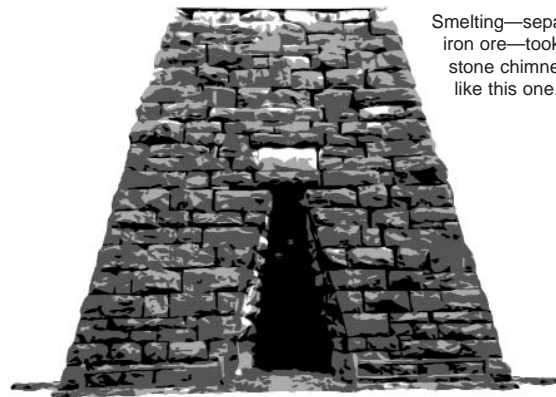
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changes to your mailing address.

## **New Heritage Tourism Guide for Middle Tennessee's Iron Furnaces and Forges**

The Heritage Area explores neglected stories from the Civil War era and brings new heritage tourism tools to Tennessee's rural communities. These two goals combined to create an exciting new publication, *Tennessee Iron Furnace Trail: A Guide to Resources on the Western Highland Rim*, which was funded and created through a partnership between the Heritage Area, the Buffalo Duck River and Five Rivers Resource Conservation and Development Councils, the U.S. Forest Service, and the MTSU Center for Historic Preservation.

The fully illustrated guidebook focuses on surviving resources from the state's charcoal iron industry, almost all operated by slave labor at the beginning of the war and some were actual places of Federal-Confederate combat, along Tennessee's Western Highland Rim. Among the iron industry principals covered in the guidebook is John Bell, U.S. senator and presidential candidate in the watershed election of 1860. As Union forces bore down on middle Tennessee in 1862, the iron indus-



Smelting—separating iron from iron ore—took place in a large stone chimney or “stacks,” like this one.

try came under attack. One furnace that survived the war was Cumberland Furnace, owned by Mary Florence Kirkman, heir of prominent ironmaster Anthony W. Vanleer, and her husband, James Pierre Drouillard, a Union officer who had been stationed in Nashville.

The Heritage Area's preservation specialist Michael T. Gavin, together with Caneta S. Hankins of the MTSU Center for Historic Preservation, prepared and guided the project. The guidebook is further complemented by a Web site and video about these unique, compelling resources. The Tennessee Iron Furnace Trail Project had its official kick-off at the Cumberland Furnace in October. For more information, please visit the Iron Furnace Trail link at <http://histpres.mtsu.edu/histpres>.

## **Battle of Franklin National Historic Landmark Gets Update**

Heritage Area Manager Laura S. Holder and Director Van West, along with doctoral research assistant Spurgeon King, began plans with the City of Franklin in September to update the Franklin Battlefield National Historic Landmark application. This Heritage Area effort will become part of a larger National Park



Portion of the eastern flank of the Franklin battlefield.

Service study that will evaluate the feasibility of a Franklin battlefield national park and a comprehensive park plan. West, Holder, and King will explore the national significance of numerous historically significant battlefield properties. The expanded nomination will include research on the local homes and businesses that served as field hospitals, and additional homes, land, and structures involved in the battle. This project marks another phase in the Heritage Area's extensive partnership with Franklin and continuing support of the city's battlefield reclamation project.

## Helping Communities and Citizens Preserve the Best of the Past

In early fall, the Heritage Area partnered with the Nashville City Cemetery Association to support the interpretive planning for the new visitor center under development at Fort Negley Park in **Nashville**. The Fort Negley Visitor's Center Interpretive Plan will serve as a blueprint for the development of a new interpretive center and campus. Upon completion, the Visitor's Center will help tell the whole story of the Civil War through exhibits, interpretive media, and public programming.

The Heritage Area continues to work with the Tennessee Parks and Greenways Foundation, the Memphis Regional Chamber of Commerce, and the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency on the **Mississippi River Natural and Recreational Corridor** project. In October, the partners held an intense mapping session in Dyersburg to review and add to the existing assets in each county identified in the resource survey conducted by the Heritage Area last winter. The county Focus Group will next begin to map a route and draft a Master Map for the Corridor.

The Heritage Area supported the Battle of Blue Springs Education Day in **Mosheim** for a second year in October. We provided matching funds for a DVD to accompany the event's newly expanded Teacher's Guide, teacher workshops, and transportation assistance for schools attending Education Day.

David Brown, executive vice president of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, delivered a powerful speech in his hometown of **Murfreesboro** recently. As the featured speaker at a town hall meeting on historic preservation, Brown emphasized the importance of protecting the Rutherford County jewel that is Stones River National Battlefield. Brown graduated from MTSU's historic preservation program, and his talk was sponsored by the Center for Historic Preservation, Main Street Murfreesboro, and the Tennessee Preservation Trust.

The Heritage Area and the Center for Historic Preservation recently helped sponsor *An Evening of Cultural Heritage* at the Giles Heritage Theater in **Pulaski**. Held to



Pearl Bransford, Nancy Bryson Vaughan, and Carla Jones at the Matt Gardner Homestead fundraiser.

support the Matt Gardner Homestead Museum in Giles County, the evening featured three speakers who addressed the theme of *Economic and Educational Advantages of Promoting African-American Sites*, as well as Nashville's Morning Glory Choir.



Participants at the African American Preservation Alliance Conference.

The Heritage Area also helped sponsor the African American Preservation Alliance's annual conference, *Keeping Our Eyes on the Prize*, in **Memphis** in August. Dr. Van West and Anne-Leslie Owens presented a well-received session on the Rural African American Church Project and African

American resource conservation. The Heritage Area also provided a summer conference intern, Memphis native Lauren Nickas, who assisted with logistics and conference planning.



This rare postwar log schoolhouse is located in Henderson County.

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## Helping Communities and Citizens Preserve the Best of the Past cont.

Heritage Area staff have produced restoration guidelines and a National Register of Historic Places nomination for the Doe Creek School and Cemetery in **Henderson County**. Originally built as a Baptist meeting house, the Reconstruction-era structure is one of the few surviving log school-houses in the state. Classes continued to be held in the building until 1948. The cemetery began with the burial of two Confederate soldiers in 1865.

For the second year in a row, Heritage Area staff participated in the Tennessee History Festival at the Bicentennial Mall in **Nashville**. The festival attracted more than 1,000 school children, who experienced living history, music, and educational opportunities. The Heritage Area provided materials and answered questions about the Civil War and Reconstruction in Tennessee for teachers and school groups across the state.

Another successful public school program occurred at **Byrdstown** in September. The Borderlands, a Civil War preservation and education group, interpreted the Affair at Travisville, the state's first known Civil War firefight. The public event also witnessed the unveiling of a new Heritage Area-prepared driving tour, *River Bluffs and Backroads* for the entire Upper Cumberland region.

At the annual National Trust for Historic Preservation Conference in Pittsburgh, the Heritage Area coordinated and staffed the Heritage Development Institute workshop. A program of the Alliance of National Heritage Areas, the sold-out HDI workshop attracted attendees from across the country and provided an educational forum to learn about creating,



Upper Cumberland students experienced hands-on living history at the Borderlands' Affair at Travisville event.

## Mark Your Calendar

**Flight to Freedom:  
Tennessee and the Underground Railroad**  
November 7, 9:00-10:00 a.m.

**Enrichment Program for Students in Grades 4-8**  
Satellite Video-Conferencing Center, MTSU

Please see [www.mtsu.edu/~itsc](http://www.mtsu.edu/~itsc) for more on this electronic field trip.

**Tennessee Association of Museums (TAM)**  
**Annual Conference**  
March 21-23, 2007

Doubletree Hotel, Murfreesboro

For details, visit [www.tnmuseums.org](http://www.tnmuseums.org) or call (866) 390-3638.

**Fourth Legacy of Stones River Symposium:  
Remembering the Civil War in Tennessee**  
March 31, 2007

Rutherford County Courthouse, Murfreesboro  
Sponsored by Stones River National Battlefield, the Heritage Area, and the MTSU History Department, the symposium will include a Hallowed Ground tour of Stones River National Cemetery.

Please see <http://histpres.mtsu.edu/tncivilwar> to download a registration brochure.

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