



TENNESSEE CIVIL WAR NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA NEWS

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

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“Creating Economic Futures: One Story at a Time” 2005 International Heritage Development Conference Update

Janisse Ray to Speak at 2005 International Heritage Development Conference



Janisse Ray

Award-winning author and environmentalist Janisse Ray will speak at Wednesday's closing luncheon of the 2005 International Heritage Development Conference. Ray, a native of Georgia, gained a national following with *Ecology of a Cracker Childhood*, published in 1999. Called “ambitious and arresting” by the *New York Times*, Ray's story of growing up in the rural South as the daughter of a junkyard dealer and of her adult commitment to a forest ecosystem that once covered the region made activists of her readers and faithful readers of activists.

In her new book, *Wild Card Quilt: Taking a Chance on Home*, Ray tells the stories of her return to her childhood home. Ray updates an American ideal as old as Thomas Jefferson—to live with a connection to neighbors and tradition. She vividly describes her attempt to create an authentic life on her own

terms, honoring the past while plotting a new path for the future. Moving with ease over the geographic and cultural lines that divide our nation, Ray's story lends insight into how we can hope to bridge these heritage chasms.

The International Heritage Development Conference will be held in Nashville, June 4–8, 2005. Hosted by the Tennessee Civil War National Heritage Area and

the Center for Historic Preservation, it is a program of the Alliance of National Heritage Areas. Nashville provides a perfect location to explore the conference theme: “Creating Economic Futures: One Story at a Time.” Nashville and surrounding towns both large and small are key historic areas where heritage development programs are in progress. These places and their stories will become the interactive venues for on-site conference workshops.

Designed by Display Arts of Nashville, a colorful table-top unit is traveling with the Heritage Area staff to conferences, presentations, and workshops.





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 legacies. 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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Heritage Development Institute (HDI) Workshops

Reston, Virginia, July 23

"Heritage Areas: A Forum on Partnerships and Heritage Development," designed for federal employees, focused on partnership strategies for heritage development and heritage areas. The HDI workshop was held at the USGS National Headquarters.

Louisville, Kentucky, September 29

"Heritage Development: The Basics of Getting Started" will be held in conjunction with the annual conference of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. The agenda covers reasons for heritage areas, building advocacy partnerships, and heritage challenges as well as roles the federal government and the Alliance of National Heritage Areas play in heritage development.

Workshop Held in South Carolina in May

Penn Center, founded in 1862 as one of the first schools for freed slaves and now a National Historic Landmark, hosted a May 26 special HDI Forum on heritage areas and development. Coming on the heels of a three-year study by Cynthia Porcher with the Historic Charleston Foundation of the Gullah-Geechee culture, the meeting focused on the process and benefits of developing a heritage area to preserve and showcase the area's unique coastal culture. The Gullahs (called Geechees outside of South Carolina) descend from African slaves who worked in the state's antebellum cotton and rice plantations. Their dialect, cuisine, and crafts, most notably sweet grass baskets, mark the distinctive Gullah heritage that continued to thrive in rural South Carolina communities after the Civil War.



A National Trust press conference announced designation of the Gullah-Geechee Coast as one of eleven Most Endangered Historic Places in America.



Participants discuss the proposal of the Gullah Heritage Area.



The HDI, a training initiative coordinated by the Alliance of National Heritage Areas and MTSU's Center for Historic Preservation in partnership with the National Park Service, provides comprehensive training opportunities for novices and practitioners in the heritage development field. To learn more about the HDI, please direct e-mails to HDI@mtsu.edu or visit the Web site at www.heritagedevelopmentinstitute.org.

Tennessee's Heritage Area Partnerships

"In the Shadow of the Pinnacle: Actions at the Cumberland Gap" won the 2004 Award of Distinction presented by the East Tennessee Historical Society. Organized by the **Abraham Lincoln Library and Museum in Harrogate** with partial funding from the Tennessee Civil War National Heritage Area, the exhibit is available to groups across the state. For information on scheduling the exhibit, contact the museum at <http://www.lmunet.edu/museum/exhibit.htm>.



Nearly 400 visitors viewed the "Occupied Murfreesboro" photographic exhibit at its opening at Bradley Academy.

"Occupied Murfreesboro: Historic Photographs from the Civil War Era"

opened to the public at Bradley Academy in **Murfreesboro** in April. Featured in the exhibit are reproductions of the oldest known photographs of Murfreesboro. The original images were donated to MTSU's Albert Gore Research Center by Sheryl and Don Jones of Arvada, Colorado. The traveling exhibit and its catalog was funded by the TCWNHA in partnership with the Center for Historic Preservation, the Gore Center, and Bradley Academy Museum and Cultural Center.

Steve Smith, graduate research assistant with the TCWNHA, is interning at **The Pillars in Bolivar**, Tennessee, for the summer. Built in 1828, The Pillars was the home of John Houston Bills—merchant, planter, and political figure in nineteenth-century **Hardeman County**. During his internship, Steve will create a heritage education package, establish a collections management system, and prepare a conservation/preservation report for the impressive collection of objects, artifacts, and documents. The Pillars is now owned

by the Association for the Preservation of Tennessee Antiquities.

Carrie Barske, a fellow with the Center for Historic Preservation, is working on the first phase of a partnership project between the Center for Historic Preservation, the Heritage Area, and the **City of Pulaski**. Her assignment is to prepare a National



Carrie Barske in Maplewood Cemetery, Pulaski.

Register of Historic Places nomination for Maplewood Cemetery, which includes graves of both United States Colored Troops and Confederate soldiers. Barske will also develop a preliminary assessment of historic African American churches and schools and draft a walking tour brochure and historic resources survey. Carrie's summer fellowship will form the basis for future National Register nominations for African American schools and churches and a formal heritage development plan for Pulaski.

Historians Raymond Evans and Bruce Wilkie of the **Chattanooga African American Museum** are continuing research that will form the basis for an interpretive project and classroom guide to be titled "The Underground Railroad: Chattanooga as the Southern Gateway to Tennessee."

Williamson County Labor Contracts, 1866, by Williamson County historian **Rick Warwick**, will be a valuable contribution to the state's collection of primary evidence about the Reconstruction period. Warwick discovered and transcribed records that document agreements between freedmen and employers that specify job duties, payment, school attendance, medical attention, food, clothing, and shelter. The contracts also reveal what residents, both black and white, considered most urgent and important in the wake of war. The book, published by the **Heritage Foundation of Franklin and Williamson County** and the TCWNHA, will be available in 2005.

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Tennessee's Heritage Area Partnerships continued

Heritage Area staff assisted with the text for outdoor displays being produced by Ashworth Environmental for **Oaklands Mansion** and the **Discovery Center** in **Murfreesboro**. Installation is expected in early fall.

Text for three state historical markers in **Cumberland County** has been submitted and reviewed by TCWNHA staff. This ongoing project will help to interpret the Civil War on the Cumberland Plateau to local residents as well as visitors.

Heritage Area staff provided an introduction and conclusion for the **Union County** driving tour brochure being developed by Bonnie Peters, county historian. The locale has many stories that will be addressed in the project including activity on the Underground Railroad.

The TCWNHA is partnering with Main Street Collierville, the Wigfall Grays Sons of Confederate Veterans, and the Collierville Chamber of Commerce to produce a brochure highlighting the October 11, 1863, battle for control of the railroad and the Union supply depot in **Collierville**.

A teacher workshop on the **Civil War in West Tennessee** will be jointly sponsored by the **Tennessee State Museum** and the TCWNHA October 7–8. The workshop will focus on issues of race, gender, and class as well as military actions and their impact.

For summaries of the March **Stones River Symposium**, "**Slavery and the Civil War in Tennessee**," and the April **Iron Furnace Forum**, go to the "What's New" section of the TCWNHA Web site at <http://histpres.mtsu.edu/tncivwar>.

Mark Your Calendar

Occupied Murfreesboro Exhibit, Stones River National Battlefield

July 1–30, 2004

HDI Workshop

September 29, 2004, Louisville, Kentucky

Battle of Franklin 140th Anniversary

October 1–3, 2004, Spring Hill

Go to www.battleoffranklin.com for more information.**Battle of Nashville 140th Anniversary Symposium**

December 10–11, 2004, Nashville Public Library

Go to www.tennesseehistory.org/battle_of_Nashville.htm for more information.**International Heritage Development Conference**

June 4-8, 2005, Nashville, Tennessee

Go to www.ihdc2005.org**Tennessee Civil War National Heritage Area**

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