



Times of Trouble, Times of Freedom

CIVIL WAR AND RECONSTRUCTION
IN PARIS AND HENRY COUNTY, TENNESSEE:

A DRIVING TOUR

Sponsored by the
Paris-Henry County Heritage Center

1 PARIS-HENRY COUNTY

HERITAGE CENTER

614 NORTH POPLAR STREET, PARIS

This architecturally significant Italian Renaissance-style manor, listed on the National Register of Historic Places, houses exhibits, artifacts, and information about local Civil War and Reconstruction history.

2 HENRY COUNTY

COURTHOUSE SQUARE

JUNCTION OF U.S. HIGHWAY 641 & 79, PARIS

The courthouse square was a center of activity throughout the war and Reconstruction. The first company organized in Henry County in 1860 was the "Paris Blues," which merged with the 1st Tennessee Infantry in Randolph, TN, under Preston Smith. In 1861, Col. Smith's 1st Tennessee was renumbered to the 154th Senior Regiment. The 5th Tennessee Infantry, CSA, was organized at the courthouse on April 20, 1861, and was permanently organized on May 20, 1861. It included the first of some 2,500 Henry County volunteers who joined Confederate forces. Henry County also had volunteers for one Union company, the 7th Tennessee Cavalry, Company D, USA. Henry County earned the name "Volunteer County of the Volunteer State" because so many residents volunteered to fight in the war.

While Henry County had strong Confederate sympathies, with the fall of the Confederate forts of Henry, Heiman, and Donelson in the spring of 1862, Paris soon became an occupied federal town. The presence of federal soldiers on the town square infuriated many white citizens, and until the end of the war, federal commanders worried about partisan and guerrilla activity. In the fall of 1863, for instance, they estimated that 300 guerrillas were raiding and taking conscripts between Paris, TN, and Murray, KY.

African American contrabands and emancipated slaves felt differently about federal troops. A large black neighborhood, centered around Mt. Zion Baptist Church, soon developed north of the courthouse near the railroad tracks and the present-day U.S. Highway 641 North. To protect black voters, along with white Unionists, after the war, Governor William G. Brownlow sent a detachment of the Tennessee State Guard to Paris that stayed there during the summer of 1867.

4 QUINN CHAPEL AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

216 CHURCH STREET, PARIS

This Gothic-styled church which is located next to the City Cemetery dates to 1917. The church's congregation was one of the first established in Paris by missionaries during Reconstruction. Since its inception, the congregation has shaped African-American institutions and lives in Paris and Henry County. Church members, for

4

on September 9, 2006.

The historic City Cemetery illustrates the early settlement history of Paris. The iron fence along the front of the Paris City Cemetery originally surrounded the courthouse. At the permanent organization of the 5th Tennessee Company, criers mounted this fence to organize the men into companies. Simple rectangular stones inscribed CSA mark several Confederate veterans' graves. Civil War veterans and brothers Colonel Jonathan J. Lamb and Samuel H. Lamb were reinterred under a single tombstone here in late 1866. Jonathan Lamb died fighting in Georgia in 1864; Samuel Lamb died in the summer of 1863. Confederate officer and later Tennessee governor James D. Porter is buried here as well as Gen. John D. C. Atkins, who helped to form the 5th Tennessee Infantry before he served as a Confederate congressman in Richmond, VA. After the war, he returned to Paris and co-founded the *Paris Intelligencer*, an anti-Republican Reconstruction newspaper. He was elected to Congress in 1873 and later served as Commissioner of Indian Affairs. One sizeable corner of the cemetery was for the burial of African Americans, but few grave markers remain. These unmarked graves were commemorated with the erection of the African-American Memorial Monument on September 9, 2006.

3

CITY CEMETERY

EAST RUFF STREET AT CHURCH STREET, PARIS

The Henry County Courthouse was erected in 1895; its hallway includes a portrait of Governor Isham G. Harris, who led the state to succession in 1861. Harris built his business, legal, and political career in Paris in the 1840s and 1850s. The courthouse grounds include a monument to Henry County Confederate soldiers erected in 1886. The statue, "Private of '61," replaced a simple shaft that was part of the original monument. The master of ceremonies at the statue's unveiling on September 20, 1900, was James D. Porter. At least 25 Confederate veterans were in attendance.

5 LEE SCHOOL, NOW THE ROBERT E. LEE ACADEMY FOR THE ARTS

402 LEE STREET, PARIS

The front portion of this former public school, now utilized as a cultural arts center, served as the Paris Male Academy prior to and during the Civil War. The front four rooms date to 1880 and are a reconstruction of the 1848 structure. The largest section of the building dates to the 1890s and was named in honor of Robert E. Lee, the Confederate commander of the Army of Northern Virginia.

6 JAMES DAVIS PORTER HOUSE

407 DUNLAP STREET, PARIS

The original four rooms of this dwelling date to 1848. It was later enlarged and became the home of James D. Porter, a former Tennessee Governor, and Confederate chief of staff to Gen. Benjamin F. Cheatham. After his term as governor from 1875-1879, Porter served as president of the Nashville, Chattanooga, and St. Louis Railroad, as Assistant Secretary of State, Minister to Chile, and president of Peabody Normal College. Porter died at his home in 1912.

7 BATTLE OF PARIS SITE

STATE HIGHWAY 54, PARIS

Located about one mile west of the courthouse, a state highway historical marker locates the Confederate position during the Battle of Paris on March 11, 1862. Standing along this ridge 450 Confederates, led by Major H. Clay King, repelled an advancing Federal column sent by General Ulysses S. Grant to quell pro-Confederate support and to establish a federal garrison in the town. About 20 Confederates were either wounded or killed. The Union troops reported four deaths including a Union sergeant major, five wounded, and one captured. This battle was one of the largest armed conflicts to take place in Henry County.

8 BARR'S CHAPEL CHRISTIAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

5560 BRIARPATCH LAKE ROAD, COMO VICINITY

This National Register-listed historic district is one of Henry County's most significant emancipation sites. Around 1864, Henry County planter John Barr verbally donated the land on which Barr's Chapel CME Church, cemetery, and school developed. He stipulated that if the church ever closed, the land would revert to his heirs. According to church history, the property "was a refuge during reconstruction [when] many men who were born into slavery became landowners." Families such as the Freemans, McWherters, Cowans, Taylors, and Teagues formed a group of black landowners who situated their farms around the church and cemetery. This historic school building dates to c. 1902; the church building dates to 1953. The cemetery is the oldest part of the district, with burials dating to the 1860s and 1870s.

9 SKIRMISH AT MANSFIELD

TENNESSEE HIGHWAY 114, MANSFIELD

About a quarter of a mile from the Mansfield Baptist Church cemetery a small engagement took place on March 21, 1864. Former Tennessee Governor Isham G. Harris, escorted by the 7th Tennessee Calvary, CSA, was attempting to visit his family in Paris when federal soldiers encountered his party. A small firefight broke out; Harris escaped and both sides experienced few casualties.

10 PARIS LANDING STATE PARK

U.S. HIGHWAY 79 AT TENNESSEE RIVER (KENTUCKY LAKE)

In late October 1864, Paris Landing played an important role in Gen. Nathan B. Forrest's campaign against the Federal supply post named Johnsonville on the Tennessee River. His troops placed a battery here, as well as more cannons downriver at the site of Fort Heiman. He also attacked several Federal naval vessels as they moved upriver toward the Johnsonville base. Forrest's men succeeded in destroying two steamboats, capturing a steamboat and a Federal gunboat, and taking 43 prisoners. On November 3, the Federals counterattacked and six gunboats shelled their position near Paris Landing.

This state park is one of the region's premier recreational facilities and is open year round.



www.histpres.mtsu.edu/tncivwar

