



## TENNESSEE CIVIL WAR NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA NEWS

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

Summer 2006

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

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# Major New State Battlefield Dedicated

With state, federal, and local officials in attendance, as well as nearly 200 interested citizens, the Parker's Crossroads Civil War Battlefield in Henderson County was dedicated on June 10, 2006.



*Representative Steve McDaniel addresses the crowd.*

One of Tennessee's most significant Civil War battlefields, Parker's Crossroads received little attention from historians or preservationists in the past. An interstate highway was even allowed to pass through the middle of the field. Fifteen years ago, however, that neglect began to change; a new partnership of local citizens and Civil War enthusiasts led by

State Representative Steve McDaniel began to marshal resources and commitments to build an evocative battlefield park.

The battlefield dedication celebrated the partnership's achievements as a community-based project. Joining McDaniel on the podium were such key partners as James O. Lighthizer of the Civil War Preservation Trust, Fred Prouty of the Tennessee Wars Commission, Keith Doll of the Parker's Crossroads Battlefield Association, and Mary Ann Peckham of the Tennessee Civil War Preservation Association. Peckham and Prouty bookended the dedication with Peckham serving as master of ceremonies and Prouty directing the closing cannon salute, the first time cannons had been fired at the battlefield since the engagement of December 31, 1862.

Other supporters and speakers were Norman Hill, executive director of the Tennessee Historical Commission; Susan

Whitaker, commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Tourist Development; Woody Harrell, superintendent of Shiloh National Military Park; and Walter Durham, state historian. Douglas Burkhead, president of the Parker's Crossroads Battlefield

Association, presented the history of the battle, and Kenneth R. Kizer, mayor of Parker's Crossroads, opened the ceremony with welcoming remarks.

"On this day of dedication," remarked Steve McDaniel, "we recognize you and the many partners who made this possible—the caring and committed individuals of our

community, the state and federal agencies, local governments, private preservation groups, and members of other generous organizations. We're indebted to all of you who have shared in the vision of preservation and interpretation of this hallowed ground for future generations to appreciate."

The Tennessee Civil War National Heritage Area salutes this model community-driven preservation project and pledges its support for the battlefield's future development.



*A Union reenactor provides music.*



*Confederate reenactors at the dedication ceremony in early June.*



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.

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## Bringing Mississippi River Communities to Life

The Heritage Area is involved with one of West Tennessee's most exciting heritage development projects, the Mississippi River Natural and Recreational Corridor. This regional organization includes the Tennessee counties of Lauderdale, Lake, Obion, Tipton, Dyer, and Shelby. The

corridor project aims to conserve and interpret the river and bluffs while also developing the region's outstanding recreational and cultural opportunities as a means to stimulate economic development and sustainable tourism.

The Heritage Area joined the corridor in 2005 at the request of the Tennessee Parks and Greenways Foundation, which serves as the organization's management entity. The Tennessee Civil War NHA is now one of the project's principal partners along with the Memphis Regional Chamber and the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency. The Heritage Area has provided matching funds for marketing resources and the completion of a corridor management plan. We have also contributed professional services in the form of historical research, photography, and surveys.



*Bridges are among the many historic resources within the Mississippi River Corridor.*

During the winter of 2005-2006, Dr. Carroll Van West, director of the Heritage Area, and Elizabeth Moore, fieldwork coordinator for the Center for Historic Preservation, conducted an extensive historic resource survey of the counties along the river. The team carefully documented the region's rich Civil

War and Reconstruction sites including battle sites, African American settlement communities, schools, historic homes, churches, cemeteries, and agricultural landscapes. The Heritage Area also contributed photographs and a historical overview of the region for the corridor's Web site (see [www.msrivertn.org](http://www.msrivertn.org)).

Over the next several years, the corridor project plans to establish the counties along the Mississippi River as a thriving region while conserving its most valuable resource—the great Mississippi River itself. With the expansion of Interstate 69, the project hopes to capitalize on increased visitor access by providing an authentic Mississippi River experience. The Heritage Area will continue to provide assistance through professional services and membership on the Steering Committee.

## Granville Museum Unveils Civil War Exhibition

At its annual Heritage Day Festival, the Granville Museum in Jackson County held a grand opening for *At the Crossroads: The Civil War in Granville*. A partnership with the Heritage Area, the exhibition details local experiences and places them in the larger context of wartime Tennessee.

Heritage Area graduate assistant Ashley Tate researched the Granville community and unearthed several fascinating stories. Working with Heritage Area staff members Antoinette van Zelm, historian, and Melissa Zimmerman, programming specialist, Tate created a timeline and panels titled "America's Greatest Challenge (1861-1865)," "Braced for Battle," "War Hits Home," and "Slaves No More." The Heritage Area worked with museum founder Randall Clemons to develop the exhibition. This summer, Zimmerman also provided the museum with a set of recommendations for future planning.



*From left, Randall Clemons, James Clemons, and Anna Stout Moffitt pose in front of the new Civil War exhibition at the Granville Museum. The three museum supporters are descendants of Pendleton Huff, a Confederate soldier featured in the exhibition.*

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

In response to the devastation of Hurricane Katrina, the Heritage Area joined the Mississippi Gulf Coast National Heritage Area for the Seventh Annual Coastal Development Strategies Conference in

**Biloxi, Mississippi.** Carroll Van West and Elizabeth Moore conducted a workshop called "Keeping It Real: Community Partnerships for Telling the Whole Story of the Gulf Coast."



Laura Holder, manager of the Heritage Area, and Anne-Leslie Owens, public service coordinator for the Center for Historic Preservation, participated in the City of **McMinntville's** annual Preservation Day. Rounding out a panel that included the city's Main Street coordinator, city planner, and local historians, Holder and Owens provided an overview of the statewide services offered by the center and the Heritage Area.

"Vintage Buildings Make Vibrant Communities" was the theme of the annual statewide preservation conference and Main Street summit held by the Tennessee Preservation Trust in **Knoxville**. Michael Gavin, Heritage Area preservation specialist, spoke at a session called Saving and



(Top left) This historic marker identifies the site of General James Longstreet's headquarters. (Above) Michael Gavin, preservation specialist, attends the Verizon Heritage Fair in Murfreesboro. (Left) The bell cupola of Pickett's Chapel in Wilson County.

### Promoting Tennessee's Civil War Heritage.

At the African American Cultural Museum in **Lebanon**, museum founder Mary Harris spoke with Heritage Area staff about Pickett's Chapel, an early nineteenth-century brick building formerly used as a church by both white and black congregations. In conjunction with the Center for Historic Preservation, the Heritage Area will oversee completion of a historic structure report on the chapel by graduate students this fall.

Another historic structure report will be produced by graduate students for the Nenny house in **Russellville**. Staff members recently visited the building, which served as Confederate General James Longstreet's headquarters during his East Tennessee campaign in the winter of 1863-64.

The Cumberland Valley Civil War Heritage Association's Civil War driving tour brochure, another partnership project with the Heritage Area, will also be completed this summer. Encompassing **Macon, Trousdale, Sumner, Robertson, Wilson, and Smith counties**, the tour will include a variety of Civil War and Reconstruction sites.

Michael Gavin and Caneta Hankins, assistant director of the Center for Historic Preservation, presented "Of Farms, Fences, and Furnaces: Ulster Scots and Their Impact on the Settlement Landscape of Tennessee" at the Ulster-American Heritage Symposium



A Cumberland Valley driving tour brochure will feature the Smith County Courthouse.

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

sponsored by the East Tennessee Historical Society in **Knoxville**.

As part of the Heritage Area's professional services and outreach program, Michael Gavin recently visited one of the larger historic log dwellings in **Putnam County** and provided advice about several restoration-related issues.

Tennessee Civil War NHA staff participated in the first Heritage Fair held by Verizon Wireless at the call center in **Murfreesboro**, distributing information and answering questions about Heritage Area projects and services.

Heritage Area staff have surveyed **Henry County's** resources for a Civil War and Reconstruction-era driving tour brochure. A partnership with the Paris/Henry County Heritage Center, the guide will be available soon.

The Heritage Area completed the **Blount County** Feasibility Study last spring, and the project continues to gain momentum. The Blount County Commission unanimously approved a resolution supporting the study.

The Tennessee Civil War NHA participated in the Tennessee Civil War Preservation Association's annual board meeting, held in **Hartsville**. Laura Holder was elected to the association's advisory board.

A brochure and Web site featuring the Iron Furnace Trail along the Tennessee River will be available soon.

## Mark Your Calendar

### African American Preservation Alliance Conference August 3-5, 2006

Holiday Inn University of Memphis

Keeping Our Eyes on the Prize is the theme of the conference, which will include a session on the Rural African American Church Survey project by Center for Historic Preservation staff.

For more information, see <http://histpres.mtsu.edu/histpres>.

### Music of the Civil War

September 16, 2006, 7:30 p.m.

Dillon Park, Woodbury

Admission is \$5 for this program of the Cannon County Arts Center's Back Porch Series. See

[www.artscenterofcc.com](http://www.artscenterofcc.com) or call (615) 563-2787.

### Fifteenth Annual Battle of Blue Springs

October 14-15, 2006 (free Education Day on October 13, by reservation)

John I. Myers Farm in Mosheim (Greene County)

Tickets are \$7; student and advance purchase discounts are available.

For more information, visit [www.battleofbluesprings.com](http://www.battleofbluesprings.com) or call (423) 422-4051.

### 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

March 31, 2007

Rutherford County Courthouse, Murfreesboro

The event's speakers will include William A. Blair, author of *Cities of the Dead: Contesting the Memory of the Civil War in the South, 1865-1914*.

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