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Left to right: Julie Lenger, Brian Heffron, Lauren Nickas, Ashley Tate

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Note: Photo captions can be found on page 7.

Ex Officio
Bart Gordon, U.S. Congress
Douglas Henry, Tennessee Senate
Steve McDaniel, Tennessee House of Representatives
October 15, 2007

Dear Fellow Tennesseans and National Partners,

In 2007, the TCWNHA witnessed significant expansion and success in meeting its goal to tell the whole story of America’s greatest challenge in the Volunteer State. Thank you so much for your support and for bringing us into your communities to help make a difference in the interpretation, preservation, and enhancement of our Civil War–era heritage assets.

This year, our partnerships contributed to major successes in places like Franklin, where the “Why Franklin Matters!” symposium in June complemented a year-long local effort to reclaim and interpret the battlefield. We marveled at what our smaller communities, such as Scotts Hill in Henderson and Decatur counties, could do with assistance, encouragement, and partnership. The dedication of their newly restored Doe Creek School, part of the Reconstruction effort to build new opportunities for a devastated, war-torn state, drew over 400 people on a hot summer afternoon in July and set the stage for a continued strong partnership.

Farther west, we received a completed master plan for the Mississippi River corridor and helped develop new projects at Fort Wright in Tipton County. On the opposite end of the state in Gatlinburg, we partnered with the community to rediscover the Civil War story of Radford Gatlin as part of its 200th anniversary. In Murfreesboro, we worked with public and private partners, especially the Main Street program, to open a downtown Heritage Center, where the stories of the Civil War are a centerpiece.

Our efforts continue to make a difference across the state. Please join us to bring our state’s history to the attention of residents and visitors who come to Tennessee to discover the whole story of the Civil War—a time that redefined this nation.

Sincerely,

Carroll Van West
Director
Our Mission

The Tennessee Civil War National Heritage Area (TCWNHA) tells the whole story of America’s greatest challenge, 1860–1875, through sites and resources across the state. Encompassing the entire state of Tennessee, the Heritage Area was designated by Congress in 1996 and is partnership unit of the National Park Service. The TCWNHA is administered by the Center for Historic Preservation at Middle Tennessee State University and represents a partnership-based effort to preserve, enhance, and interpret the legacy of the Civil War and its aftermath across the state.

Building Partnerships

Strong reciprocal partnerships form the foundation of the Heritage Area’s success. The TCWNHA provides leadership and support to organizations across the state, creating opportunities for education, interpretation, resource conservation, and economic development. We continue to partner with communities to help residents identify and promote their stories, empowering them to become effective stewards for their resources. We offer trained professionals to help develop and implement heritage projects, and we provide collaborative partnerships, which fund projects and programs on a fifty-fifty matching basis to government and nonprofit agencies.

Maximizing this year’s $472,800 in federal appropriations from the National Park Service (an 18 percent increase from the previous year), we continued to follow our management plan, emphasizing interpretation, education, conservation, and tourism projects along eight heritage corridors. The Heritage Area worked with Franklin’s Charge Inc., the East Tennessee Historical Society, Main Street Murfreesboro/Rutherford County, the University of Tennessee, and the Mississippi River Natural and Recreational Corridor, among many others. This year, the National Trust for Historic Preservation invited Dr. Van West to join its board of advisors as one of two representatives for Tennessee. Continuing efforts to plan for the Civil War Sesquicentennial, Van West and Laura Holder were appointed to the state’s Sesquicentennial Planning Commission by Governor Phil Bredesen. Freedom and Work in the Reconstruction Era: The Freedmen’s Bureau Labor Contracts of Williamson County, a joint project and publication with the Heritage Foundation of Franklin/Williamson County, received an Award of Merit from the American Association for State and Local History.
Fulfilling Our Goals

The Heritage Area’s 2006–2007 projects met and extended management plan goals to advance education and interpretation, enhance preservation efforts, and promote economic development through heritage tourism.

The year’s signature project in blending interpretation and heritage tourism is the Heritage Center of Murfreesboro and Rutherford County, a partnership with Main Street Murfreesboro, the city of Murfreesboro, and Rutherford County government. Exhibits, tours, and public programs at the new Heritage Center tell downtown Murfreesboro’s history as a Civil War battlefield and occupied city.

Educational initiatives this year included programming for the Civil War Preservation Trust’s Summer Teacher Institute in Chattanooga. With Stones River National Battlefield, we held the fourth “Legacy of Stones River: Remembering the Civil War” symposium, which attracted 180 people to Rutherford County’s antebellum courthouse. The Heritage Area partnered with Franklin’s Charge Inc. to conduct “Why Franklin Matters! Exploring the Preservation and Interpretation of Franklin’s Civil War Story.” This symposium blended scholarly presentations with best practices workshops in battlefield reclamation and heritage tourism; interpretive mobile workshops and tours provided outstanding opportunities to experience Civil War history and preservation firsthand. We also partnered with the Tennessee State Museum, the Sam Davis Home, and the University of Tennessee’s McClung Museum to develop unique, detailed Civil War exhibits and expanded Civil War entries to the online Tennessee Encyclopedia of History and Culture.

Planning and conservation initiatives crisscrossed the state. A historic structures report (HSR) was developed for Pickett’s Chapel United Methodist Church, an African American National Register–listed landmark in Lebanon. We completed another HSR on the Longstreet House in East Tennessee’s Hamblen County for the Lakeway Civil War Preservation Association. State and local officials contacted the Heritage Area for a restoration plan for Doe Creek School, a rare West Tennessee Reconstruction-era log schoolhouse. This rural community partnered with us to raise funds and complete renovations; the restored school was dedicated in July 2007. Planning assistance also went to the Land Trust for Tennessee’s Natchez Trace Corridor initiative and the Mississippi River Natural and Recreational Corridor master plan.

Significant heritage tourism initiatives included the Tennessee’s Iron Furnace Trail guidebook and DVD, a partnership with the Buffalo/Duck River Resource Conservation and Development Council and the U.S. Forest Service. Additional projects included Civil War driving tours for Franklin and historic Lynchburg, home of the Jack Daniel Distillery.
At a Glance: 2006 Major Projects and Partnerships

Education and Interpretation
- The Occupied City, a major exhibit focusing on the 1862 Battle of Murfreesboro and its aftermath for the Heritage Center of Murfreesboro and Rutherford County
- “Why Franklin Matters! Exploring the Preservation and Interpretation of Franklin’s Civil War Story” symposium planning and presentations
- Hoofbeats on the Heartland traveling exhibit on Civil War cavalry with the Tennessee State Museum
- Battle for Fort Sanders exhibit on the Battle of Knoxville for UT’s McClung Museum
- Fourth “Legacy of Stones River: Remembering the Civil War” symposium
- Free at Last: Emancipation and Reconstruction in Tennessee traveling exhibit
- “Flight to Freedom: Tennessee and the Underground Railroad” MTSU educational satellite videoconference
- Management and editing for expanded Civil War entries for online Tennessee Encyclopedia of History and Culture
- Presentations and materials for Civil War Preservation Trust Summer Teacher Institute
- Battle of Blue Springs Teachers Guide DVD edition
- Forty-one (41) educational presentations across the state and nationally

Preservation and Planning
- Historic structure reports for Doe Creek School and Cemetery, Pickett’s Chapel, Cumberland Furnace, and the Longstreet Headquarters
- National Historic Landmark nomination update for the Battle of Franklin
- Restoration plan for historic Fort Wright powder magazine
- Mississippi River Natural and Recreational Corridor master plan
- Five (5) nominations to the National Register of Historic Places

Economic Development and Heritage Tourism
- Opened the Heritage Center of Murfreesboro and Rutherford County
- Fort Negley Visitors Center master plan
- Discover Historic Lynchburg self-guided tour publication
- Planning for Southeast Tennessee Civil War driving tour

Professional Services and Outreach
- Restoration guidelines for St. Marks United Primitive Baptist Church
- Reconstruction in Franklin teacher workbook and educational guide
- Heritage Area national training workshops in Pittsburgh, Baltimore, and Monterey, California
Leveraging Funds

Fiscal Year 2007

Federal Funds:
Federal Appropriations
National Park Service $472,800

Leveraged Funds:
State Match/Appropriations
MTSU/TBR $362,000

County Government Funding
Rutherford County $15,000

Local Government Funding
City of Murfreesboro $65,000
City of Franklin $11,000

Private Matching Funds
AkinsCrisp Public Strategies $5,000
Mississippi River NRC $2,500
Partnership matching funds $403,657

Total: $1,336,957

Recap

- Forty-four (44) formal partnerships
- Twenty-one (21) matching grants awarded, for a total of $218,502
- $864,157 in leveraged funds, for a total of $1,336,957
- Projects, surveys, and site visits in 70 of the state’s 95 counties (74 percent)

Economic Impact of Heritage Tourism Spending in all 27 National Heritage Areas (NHAs)
(Source: Economic Impact of Heritage Tourism Spending, Alliance of National Heritage Areas)

Estimated total economic impact of all NHA visitors in 2007:
- $8.5 billion in spending
- Spending supports 152,324 jobs and $3.185 billion in personal income

Photo Captions
(Cover images) Young reenactors at Stones River National Battlefield, Rutherford County
Rare antebellum Niota railroad depot in McMinn County
National Register–listed Hord Farm, Rutherford County
Fort Wright, a Civil War powder magazine in Tipton County
Civil War monument to Confederate women, Lincoln County
(Page 3) Dedication of the newly restored Doe Creek School, Henderson County
(Page 4) Civil War earthfortifications at Fort Granger, Williamson County
(Page 4) Living history events at the “Why Franklin Matters!” symposium, Williamson County
(Page 4) General James Longstreet’s winter headquarters, Hamblen County
(Page 5) Free at Last!—a Reconstruction exhibit at the McLemore House and Museum, Williamson County
(Page 5) Student Education Day at the annual Affair at Travisville event, Pickett County
(Page 5) MTSU art professor Erin Anfinson paints Civil War mural at Heritage Center, Rutherford County
(Page 6) Presentation by David Brown, MTSU alumni and executive vice president of the National Trust for Historic Preservation
(Page 6) National Register–listed Hord Farm, Rutherford County
(Page 6) United States Colored Troops reenactors at the Tennessee History Festival, Davidson County
(Page 8) U.S. Congressman Bart Gordon at the fourth “Legacy of Stones River” symposium, Rutherford County, in Murfreesboro.
Looking Ahead: FY 2008 Projects

We have a number of exciting projects that are already in progress for FY 2008, including

- development of a traveler’s guide for Civil War and Reconstruction sites across the state;
- restoration and development plan for Fort Wright powder magazine in Tipton County;
- development of a regional driving tour, promotional materials, and interior restoration plans for the Longstreet Headquarters in Hamblen County; and
- educational symposiums in Franklin, Murfreesboro, and Greeneville.