Executive Summary

The past five years marked the Heritage Area’s greatest impact to date. We launched a new program/project agenda tying the Civil War era to issues of citizenship and civil rights that still frame public debate today.

The Heritage Area’s leadership during the successful Tennessee Civil War Sesquicentennial commemoration (2010–15) cannot be over-emphasized. We and our partners coordinated expertise and funding into a truly statewide initiative. These efforts resulted in new public battlefield parks, a statewide Civil War Trails program, Emmy award-winning documentaries, a 12-volume book series, high-profile exhibits, free public symposia, renewed energy for Civil War research and preservation, and increased engagement with youth and under-represented groups.

When the official sesquicentennial concluded, we shifted emphasis to the sesquicentennial of the Reconstruction era (defined in Tennessee as the war’s end in 1865 to the ratification of the new state constitution in 1870). Following the National Park Service (NPS) narrative “From Civil War to Civil Rights,” we worked with partners on diverse and inclusive exhibits, programming, documentaries, and interpretive markers that truly tell the whole story of America’s greatest challenge.

We continued to equip and train undergraduate and graduate students with experiential learning in a “boots-on-the-ground” environment. Students actively engaged with communities across Tennessee and beyond, immersed in the places they supported.

The Heritage Area also continued to play a crucial role in implementing the NPS Franklin Battlefield Special Resource Study recommendations. New interpretive markers and exhibits at the Carter Hill Battlefield and Fort Granger now tell a more balanced, inclusive story. Permanent exhibits were also installed at the Parkers Crossroads Battlefield Visitors Center, Gen. James Longstreet Museum, Hiwassee Visitor Center, and all of Tennessee’s state-operated Welcome Centers. These projects advanced preservation and heritage tourism at key Civil War resources, generating increased economic development as outlined in our management plan.

With emphasis on providing authentic opportunities for Tennessee’s residents and visitors, we expanded the Heritage Area’s services by creating opportunities for research and interpretation, ensuring academic excellence through hands-on student training, and supporting heritage tourism as a tool for economic development and resource conservation.*

*For a more complete listing of our major projects and professional services, please refer to the final pages of this report.
Overview and Management Plan Goals
The Tennessee Civil War National Heritage Area (TCWNHA) tells the whole story of America’s greatest challenge, 1860–1875: stories of warfare, the demands of the home front and occupation, the freedom of emancipation, and the enduring legacies of Reconstruction. Leveraging federal, state, local, and private funding, we empower communities and individuals to serve as good stewards of their historic resources.

Our Professional Services and Outreach program helps property owners and organizations develop heritage projects at no cost. Through our Collaborative Partnerships program, organizations can apply for matching funds to develop heritage tours, markers, exhibits, educational materials, digital resources, and preservation plans. Every federal dollar that the Heritage Area receives is matched by at least one dollar from a non-federal source.

Initiatives are based on four major goals outlined by our Congressional legislation:

1) Preserve, conserve, and interpret the legacy of the Civil War in Tennessee
2) Recognize and interpret important events and geographic locations representing key Civil War battles, campaigns, and engagements in Tennessee
3) Recognize and interpret the effect of the Civil War on the civilian population of Tennessee during the war and postwar Reconstruction period
4) Create partnerships among federal, state, and local governments and their regional entities and the private sector to preserve, conserve, enhance, and interpret the battlefields and sites associated with the Civil War in Tennessee

We achieve these goals through project-centered partnerships. Our national reputation is built upon our ability to sensitively work with diverse communities based on their needs, interests, and abilities. For over 20 years, we have provided leadership and support to organizations across Tennessee, creating opportunities for education, interpretation, preservation, and economic development.

New marker installed at Promise Land
Sesquicentennial event in Franklin
Students learn about cemetery preservation at Stones River National Cemetery
Students and community members developed Mt. Zion School National Register nomination
**Financial Overview**

Leveraging our federal appropriations with state, local, and private funds, the Heritage Area’s investment generated almost $5 million in support for communities across Tennessee.

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<th>Fiscal Year</th>
<th>Federal Funds Received</th>
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<th>Non-Federal Match</th>
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*Additional costs expended in compliance with National Park Service directive to spend down funds remaining from previous year(s)*

**TCWNHA Sustainability**

Middle Tennessee State University’s Center for Historic Preservation (CHP), our legislatively mandated “clearinghouse,” remains our most committed partner and provides a level of operational certainty that complements our federal appropriations. The CHP provides salary and benefits for CHP staff positions that also support the Heritage Area, including the CHP/Heritage Area director, assistant director, executive aide, secretary, programs manager, and fieldwork coordinator. Through MTSU, the CHP also provides offices, meeting rooms, equipment, and technical expertise.

The Heritage Center of Murfreesboro and Rutherford County (established in 2007) remains a model of public-private partnerships that also generates a level of sustainability. The City of Murfreesboro provides offices and exhibit space for both the Heritage Center and Main Street Murfreesboro/Rutherford County. Joint funds contributed by both the Heritage Area and Main Street, as well as annual grants from the Rutherford County government, support Heritage Center operations and free public programming.

Every federal dollar that the TCWNHA grants to a partner organization is also matched by at least one dollar from a non-federal source. Consistent federal funding has allowed us to continue to fulfill our management plan goals.

Our projects have stimulated preservation and economic development by utilizing a balance of federal, state, local, and private funds. We will continue to identify ways we can foster sustainability in order to provide ongoing assistance to National Park Service units; local, regional, and national partners; and Tennessee’s residents and visitors.
Staff

Dr. Carroll Van West, CHP/Heritage Area director
Savannah Grandey, CHP fieldwork coordinator
Laura S. Holder, federal liaison (part time)
Kelle Knight, CHP executive aide
Dr. Susan Knowles, digital humanities coordinator (part time)
Tiffany Momon, visiting research professor
Dr. Lydia Simpson, CHP programs manager
Dr. Antoinette G. van Zelm, CHP assistant director

Board of Advisors

Our Board of Advisors plays an integral role in supporting the Heritage Area’s mission to tell the whole story of the Civil War and Reconstruction in Tennessee. The board is comprised of representatives from state agencies and local heritage organizations who bring experience from various professions, interests, and areas of expertise. Twice a year, the board reviews the Heritage Area’s projects and programs and votes on recommendations for new partnerships.

2018 Board Members

Dr. Beverly Bond, University of Memphis
Myers Brown, Tennessee State Library and Archives
Lee Curtis, Tennessee State Museum
Jack Fishman, Lakeway Civil War Preservation Association
Jack Gilpin, Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation
Tim Hyder, Tennessee Wars Commission
Randy Lucas, Attorney
Patrick McIntyre, Tennessee Historical Commission
Jo Ann McClellan, Maury County African American Heritage Society
Benjamin Nance, Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation
Lisa Oakley, East Tennessee Historical Society
Dan Pomeroy, Tennessee State Museum
Clark Shaw, Casey Jones Village and Old Country Store
Ann Toplovich, Tennessee Historical Society
Sara Beth Urban, Tennessee Department of Tourist Development
Dr. Lea Williams, Tennessee State University

Ex-Officio

Acting Superintendent, Stones River National Battlefield
Rep. Steve McDaniel, Tennessee General Assembly

Meeting of the Board of Advisors

Board Member Jo Ann McClellan and staff developed an African American tour in Columbia.

Staff, students, and TN SHPO and Board Member Patrick McIntyre evaluate Hawthorne Hill for National Register eligibility.
Major Projects By Fiscal Year

FY 2013 (10/1/12–9/30/13)

- Interpretive kiosks for the Battle of Franklin (Partner: Battle of Franklin Trust)
- “In Death Not Divided: Burial Places of East Tennessee Civil War Soldiers” online searchable database and exhibit (Partner: East Tennessee Historical Society)
- “The Civil War in Cumberland Gap” DVD project, lesson plans, and study units (Partner: Abraham Lincoln Library and Museum)
- The Knoxville Campaign: Burnside and Longstreet in East Tennessee book by Dr. Earl Hess (Partner: University of Tennessee Press)
- Fort Pillow State Park Visitor Center Civil War exhibits (Partner: Mississippi River Corridor—Tennessee and Fort Pillow State Park)
- Tennessee in the Civil War, 12-volume book series (Partner: Tennessee Historical Society)
- “The Battle of Nashville: History Unfolds at Travellers Rest” Civil War exhibit (Partner: Travellers Rest Plantation)

FY 2014 (10/1/13–9/30/14)

- “Occupation and Liberation” free multi-day Sesquicentennial signature event commemorating the Battles for Chattanooga (Partner: Tennessee Department of Tourist Development and Tennessee Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission)
- The Last Campaign: Battles of Franklin and Nashville Tennessee Civil War 150 award-winning documentary series (Partner: Nashville Public Television. Note: All NPT documentaries are available to stream at no cost at wnpt.org. Copies are also sent at no cost to schools and libraries across the state. To date, these films have reached over 4 million viewers and continue in the station’s rotation.)
- 16 permanent Civil War exhibits at every Tennessee interstate visitor center and one federal highway visitor center (Partner: Tennessee State Building Commission, Tennessee Department of Tourist Development, and Tennessee Department of Transportation)
- Multi-panel exhibits for the Battle of Parkers Crossroads Visitors Center (Partner: Parkers Crossroads Battlefield Association)
- Multi-panel Civil War exhibit for Glen Leven Farm (Partner: Land Trust for Tennessee)

FY 2015 (10/1/14–9/30/15)

- “Tennessee’s Reconstruction Past: A Driving Tour” (Heritage Area project)
- The Washingtons of Wessyngton Plantation regional Emmy Award-winning Tennessee Civil War 150 documentary (Partner: Nashville Public Television)
• After the War—Reconstruction in Tennessee. Tennessee Civil War 150 documentary (Partner: Nashville Public Television)

• Best Practices: Cleaning, Cataloging, and Digitizing Artifacts for the National Historic Landmark Hiram Masonic Hall building (Partner: Hiram Masonic Hall)

• “Historic Orange Mound: Past, Present, and Future” driving tour (Partner: Historic Orange Mound)

• “The Last Campaign” in Franklin free multi-day Sesquicentennial signature event commemorating the Battles of Franklin and Nashville (Partner: Tennessee Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission, Tennessee Department of Tourist Development, City of Franklin, Battle of Franklin Trust, Franklin’s Charge, and Williamson County Convention and Visitors Bureau)

• “Reconstruction in Tennessee” free multi-day Sesquicentennial signature event commemorating Reconstruction (Partner: East Tennessee Historical Society, Visit Knoxville, Tennessee Department of Tourist Development, and Beck Cultural Exchange Center)

• “Slaves and Slaveholders of Wessyngton Plantation” traveling exhibit (Partner: Tennessee State Museum)

• “A Past Uncovered: The Story of the Enslaved People of Travellers Rest” exhibit (Partner: Travellers Rest Plantation)

FY 2016 (10/1/15–9/30/16)

• Tennessee’s First Black Statesmen Citizenship Project documentary (Partner: Nashville Public Television)

• “Memory of a Massacre” two-day free symposium on the Memphis Massacre of 1866 (Partner: University of Memphis)

• “Forgotten Places, Living Traditions” tour of Rutherford County’s historic cemeteries (Partner: Rutherford County Archives)

• “Building A Future: The Journey From Slavery to Freedom” eight-panel exhibit at McLemore Museum (Partner: African American Heritage Society of Williamson County)

• Heritage Development Plan for Beth Salem Presbyterian Church, a Reconstruction-era African American site (Southeast Tennessee Development District)

• “Rock of Ages: East Tennessee’s Marble Industry” exhibition (Partner: Museum of East Tennessee History)

FY 17 (10/1/16–9/30/17)

• Six public celebrations of the centennial of the National Park Service, the 50th anniversary of the National Historic Preservation Act, and the 20th anniversary of the Tennessee Civil War National Heritage Area, sponsored by the Heritage Area, and the Tennessee Department of Tourist Development (multiple partners in Franklin, Murfreesboro, Nashville, Charleston, Knoxville, and Parker’s Crossroads)

• “Old Stone Fort in the 19th Century” visitor center multi-panel exhibit and artifact displays (Partner: Old Stone Fort State Park and MTSU Department of History)

• Tennessee’s Black Press Citizenship Project documentary (Partner: Nashville Public Television)

• Webb School Historical Museum exhibit panels on segregation and African American education (Partner: Webb School Rosenwald Historical Museum)

• Interpretive markers at National Register-listed Fort Granger (Partner: City of Franklin Parks Department)

• Mill Ridge Park inventory, assessment, and preservation priorities for Civil War- and Reconstruction-era resources (Partner: Metro Nashville Parks)
Professional Services
Heritage Area and MTSU/CHP matching funds support our innovative professional services program, where property owners, government agencies, nonprofit organizations, and businesses can request no-fee services for significant Civil War-era resources, projects, and programs.

Research Reports, Preservation Plans, and Heritage Development Plans
Stones River National Battlefield Cemetery Survey, Rutherford County
Browns Ferry Tavern Heritage Development Report, Hamilton County
Stanton Presbyterian Church Preservation Plan, Haywood County
Gallatin City Cemetery Interpretation and Preservation Plan, Sumner County
Salem Cemetery Battlefield Heritage Development Plan, Madison County
Rock of Ages Church Research Report, Shelby County
Murfreesboro-Patterson House Historic Structure Report, Rutherford County
Hiram Masonic Lodge (NHL) Heritage Development Plan, Williamson County
Bradley Academy African American Museum Exhibit Plan, Rutherford County
Glen Leven Farm Resource Assessment, Davidson County
Belle Meade Plantation—Harding Cabin Site Documentation Report, Davidson County
Glenmore Mansion Heritage Development Plan, Jefferson County

Heritage Tourism and Interpretive Publications
Historic African American Schools of West Tennessee: A Driving Tour
Communities and Legacies: Maury County’s African American History Driving Tour
The Country All Around Was Laid Desolate: Rutherford County’s Civil War Battles
Historic Orange Mound: Past, Present and Future

Presentations at Scholarly Symposia, Workshops, and Public Events
National Trust for Historic Preservation annual conference seminar presentations
Tennessee Main Street Association presentation on Civil War monuments, Murfreesboro, Tennessee
Slave Dwelling Project annual conference presentations, North Charleston, South Carolina, and Charlottesville, Virginia
Allen White Rosenwald School keynote address with Tennessee Legislative Black Caucus, Hardeman County
McLemore House African American Museum opening keynote address, Williamson County
Tennessee State Museum/Tennessee History presentation for teachers, Davidson County
National Humanities Alliance “Places, Spaces, and Voices,” Davidson County
National Council on Public History history-mapping workshop, Indianapolis
Tennessee Preservation Trust annual conference presentation, Williamson County
Civil War Trails marker dedication ceremony keynote addresses in Woodbury, Cannon County; Gatlinburg, Sevier County; and Columbia, Maury County
“Reconstruction and Murfreesboro,” Oaklands Mansion Historic Site annual meeting, Rutherford County
Belmont University African American History and Southern Material Culture Symposium keynote address, Davidson County

Glenmore Mansion in Jefferson City
Dr. Susan Knowles presents on digital collections
Colonial Dames of America Board Meeting keynote address, Davidson County
Colonial Dames of America presentation on East Tennessee Marble Industry, Knox County
“Overgrown and Damaged: Searching for Benevolent Society Cemeteries of Middle Tennessee” Southern Studies Conference presentation, Montgomery, Alabama
Society of Tennessee Archivists presentation “Digital Projects Based in Archival Primary Sources,” Hardin County
Presentation on “ ‘Great Excitement Up’: Women and Military Occupation in Murfreesboro during the Civil War” for historical organizations in Rutherford and Davidson counties
Southern Association for Women Historians Triennial Conference presentation on “Devotion to Union Victory in a Former Confederate State: The Woman’s Relief Corps in Tennessee,” Charleston, South Carolina
Association for the Study of African American Life and History presentation on “Forming a Sisterhood Chain: Women, Emancipation, and Freedom Celebrations in Tennessee”
Presentations by staff, students, and community partners at “The Future of Civil War History: Looking Beyond the 150th Conference” in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania
“Expanding the Vote” teachers workshop with Teaching with Primary Sources

Scholarly Publications
**Ongoing Projects**

- Continued to manage the Heritage Center of Murfreesboro and Rutherford County, located off Murfreesboro’s historic town square. The Heritage Center serves as the Heritage Area’s headquarters and is a partnership facility between us and the City of Murfreesboro, Main Street Murfreesboro, MTSU, and Rutherford County. It features the county’s largest Civil War/Reconstruction-era exhibit outside of Stones River National Battlefield; heritage education initiatives for public, private, and home-schooled students; Community Heritage lectures; Civil War book groups; and multiple walking and driving tours. Free and open to the public, the Heritage Center’s programs served approximately 20,000 visitors over the last five years.

- Partnered with the Tennessee departments of Tourist Development and Transportation to research and implement the statewide Tennessee Civil War Trails marker and signage program, which interprets over 400 Civil War- and Reconstruction-era sites across Tennessee. The program now has markers in all of Tennessee’s 95 counties, and over 3 million trail guides have been printed and distributed.

- Continued to update and manage “Digital Humanities: Preservation of Tennessee Heritage.” We partnered with MTSU’s Walker Library to establish a permanent digital scholarship lab that both preserves and hosts our Civil War- and Reconstruction-era digital research, images, and content. Additional digital history database projects include “Landscape of Liberation: The African American Geography of Civil War Tennessee,” “Shades of Gray and Blue: Reflections of Life in Civil War Tennessee,” and “Trials and Triumphs.”

- Partnered with Nashville Public Television to develop *The Citizenship Project*, a multi-episode series that explores how citizenship opened the doors for economic and social transformations in the South, advancing our goal to inform and educate the broadest possible audience about the Civil War era’s lasting significance. Topics include Tennessee’s early African American legislators, the state’s first black press, and newly formed fraternal lodges. Each episode reaches hundreds of thousands of viewers, allowing the Heritage Area to address key Civil War and postwar topics.

**Traveling Exhibit**

“Free at Last: Emancipation and Reconstruction in Tennessee” was displayed in 32 locations across the state at no cost.
Established by Congress in 1996, the Tennessee Civil War National Heritage Area is the only National Heritage Area to encompass an entire state. Our partners (both formal and informal) extend through all three grand divisions. In addition, Heritage Area director Carroll Van West serves as the governor-appointed state historian, working closely with our state agencies, parks, libraries, archives, museums, and the state legislature.

“Tennessee transportation and tourism officials have worked closely with the Tennessee Civil War National Heritage Area to bring to Tennessee the nation’s major brand in Civil War tourism and public interpretation, Civil War Trails Inc. With $2 million in funding received through a Tennessee Department of Transportation enhancement grant, matched 20 percent with funds from local communities that host the markers, and an estimated $500,000 in staff support from the Tennessee Department of Tourist Development and the National Heritage Area, Tennessee finally has a sustainable, compelling system of interpretive markers that tell our statewide Civil War story to both residents and millions of visitors.”—Tennessee Department of Tourist Development

5-Year Progress Report, 2013–17
Students installed period exhibits in sites across the state.

Ongoing work continues on Browns Ferry Tavern.

Staff supported Fort Donelson National Battlefield strategic planning meetings.

Staff and students evaluate progress at Doe Creek School.

Civil War Trails marker dedication in Gatlinburg.