

# Tennessee Wars Commission

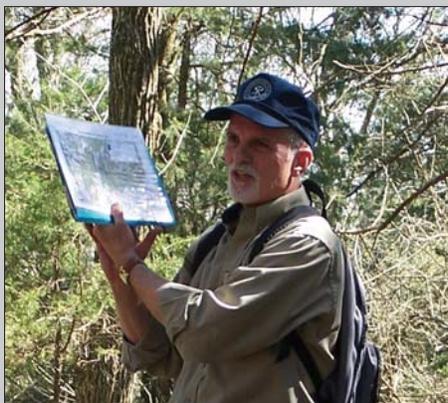
Preserving and Interpreting Tennessee's Military Sites  
1994-2013





## Tennessee Wars Commission Mission

To preserve Tennessee's military history by coordinating the planning, preservation and promotion of structures, sites and battlefields in Tennessee; and by acquiring or providing funds for the acquisition of battlegrounds, cemeteries and other historic properties in Tennessee associated with the French and Indian War, Revolutionary War, War of 1812, Mexican War and the Civil War.



Fred Prouty  
Director of Programs  
Military Sites Preservation Specialist



# Planning and Research

Planning and research are the foundation of successful preservation efforts. The Tennessee Wars Commission funds and publishes significant surveys, plans and research efforts.

*A Preservation, Management and Interpretive for Historic Bledsoe's Lick, funded by the TWC, is guiding the restoration and interpretation of Wynnewood State Historic Site, devastated several years ago by a tornado.*

*Report and Recommendations: The Triune Fortifications, Triune, Williamson County.* A TWC grant enabled Franklin's Charge Association to commission this preservation planning project.

*An Interpretive Plan for Camp Blount Memorial Park Tennessee's War of 1812 and Creek War Memorial.* Created in partnership with Lincoln County and the city of Fayetteville, this plan outlines recommendations for an interpretive park.



Funded archeological investigations that located the site of the Carter Cotton Gin and a Union defensive position near the Carter House in Franklin.

Funded research at the National Archives to determine the location of Tennessee's Fort Nash, a frontier fort established in Coffee County about 1793.

Published *Survey of Civil War-Era Military Sites in Tennessee* documenting more than 500 Civil War sites across the state.

Published a report demonstrating that 5 million people visited Tennessee's Civil War sites, and over 6 million "virtual visitors" clicked on Tennessee Civil War web sites.

Published *A Survey of Sites Related to the American Revolution and War of 1812 in Tennessee*; a report documenting sites statewide.



# Preservation through Partnerships

**“The Tennessee Wars Commission . . . continues to help protect the important battlefields of the Civil War. . . I am a strong believer in developing partnerships to leverage resources for conservation efforts and we’ve been able to protect a lot of priority tracts of land this way, including several important battlefield sites.”**

**Governor Phil Bredesen, 2009**

Since the Wars Commission was created in 1994 over 7,000 acres of battlefield land in Tennessee has been preserved. The National Park Service’s American Battlefield Protection Program has contributed over \$3,000,000 for six endangered Tennessee battlefields, allowing the TWC to secure over \$7,464,061 in non-federal leveraged matching funds, for a total of \$10,350,363.

The Wars Commission and its partners saved 900 acres of endangered Civil War battlefield land last year. The Civil War Trust, the American Battlefield Protection Program and local partners contributed funds exceeding \$2,729,000.

In the coming year, the Wars Commission will use \$3,019,840 in transportation enhancement funding for land preservation at Fort Donelson in Stewart County, Shiloh National Military Park in Hardin County, Davis Bridge Battlefield in Hardeman County, and Parker’s Crossroads National Battlefield in Henderson County. This project is a partnership between the TWC, The Civil War Trust, the National Park Service and the City of Parkers Crossroads.



**“A good deal of the credit for this remarkable rate of land conservation goes to the Tennessee Wars Commission.”**

**National Park Service**

*Update to the Civil War Sites Advisory Commission  
Report on the Nation’s Civil War Battlefields, 2009*

# Major Preservation Projects

## Davis Bridge Battlefield, Hardeman County

Grants from the Tennessee Heritage Conservation Trust Fund (\$845,000) and the Tennessee State Lands Acquisition Fund (\$61,000) leveraged \$1,064,500 from the Civil War Trust and the American Battlefield Protection Program to save 643 acres of battlefield land at Davis Bridge Battlefield in Hardeman County. With this purchase, over 830 acres has been preserved, nearly 98% of the battlefield.

## Parkers Crossroads National Battlefield, Henderson County

An ongoing partnership between the TWC, Parker's Crossroads Battlefield Preservation Association, The Civil War Trust and the City of Parkers Crossroads has preserved 350 acres in Henderson County. A grant of \$300,000 from Tennessee Heritage Conservation Trust Fund matched by funding from Tennessee State Lands Acquisition Fund and \$100,000 from the Civil War Trust secured the battlefield land.

## Longstreet/Nenney House, Hamblen County

Lakeway Civil War Preservation Association of Morristown, Tennessee, received TWC funding for the restoration of the Longstreet/Nenney House in Russellville. The structure, once used by Confederate Gen. James Longstreet, will house a Welcome Center and exhibits.

## Redoubt Number One, Nashville

TWC funds, matched dollar-for-dollar with private money, paid off the mortgage on Redoubt Number one in Nashville. TWC partnered with the Battle of Nashville Preservation Society and The Land Trust of Tennessee to save this Nashville landmark.

**The TWC has preserved over 7,000 acres of endangered battlefield land.**

## Additional Projects

Helped fund the statewide not-for-profit Tennessee Civil War Preservation Association.

Partnered with the National Park Service to update the *Civil War Sites Advisory Commission Report on the Nation's Battlefields* for Tennessee.

Granted funds for repaired of Cold Spring School House in Portland, a hospital for Camp Trousdale, a Confederate army training facility.

Published *Assessment and Preservation Plan for Strawberry Plains Battlefield and Fortifications, Jefferson County, Tennessee*.

Funded five underwater archaeological investigations of Federal shipwrecks lost in the Civil War Battle of Johnsonville.



# Education and Interpretation

## Johnsonville State Historic Area

The TWC partnered with Tennessee State Parks to obtain federal transportation enhancement funding used to build a new visitor center and exhibits. TWC also funded, *A Success that Failed: The Battle of Johnsonville*, a 20-minute film that will be shown at the visitor center and aired on the Tennessee Public Broadcast System, and thirteen waysides interpreting the Civil War Union supply depot and old Johnsonville.

## Davis Bridge Battlefield.

Governor Phil Bredesen awarded \$929,132 in transportation enhancement funding to the TWC which is being used to develop an interpreted trail system on 800 acres of preserved battlefield.

## Parker's Crossroads National Battlefield

TWC secured \$90,708 in Federal transportation enhancement funding to construct an additional 5,800 feet of paved interpreted trails. TWC also funded the production of *The Battle of Parker's Crossroads*, a 15-minute film that will be shown at the City of Parkers Crossroads Welcome Center.



**TWC has partnered with Tennessee State Parks, Tennessee Civil War Heritage Area, The American Battlefield Protection Program, Tennessee Historical Commission, Tennessee Department of Transportation and others to create educational and interpretive media help Tennesseans better understand and appreciate our military heritage and the sacrifices made by Tennesseans.**

TWC funded seven waysides to create an interpreted driving tour of the Battle of Collierville in Shelby County.

“Union Burial Sheets at Nashville,” a searchable database of Civil War burials at Nashville National Cemetery, an invaluable research tool, will be available through the Tennessee State Library and Archives web site.

*One and Undivided, A Civil War Memoir* produced by the Jackson Foundation, will be distributed on DVD to all school systems in Tennessee.

*Tennessee Civil War Documentary Sourcebook*, a keyword-searchable web site created for students, educators and those seeking information on Tennessee's Civil War history, will be available through the Tennessee State Library and Archives web site.

# Education and Interpretation

*Tennessee Civil War 150*, a television series produced in partnership with The Renaissance Center Multimedia Department and Tennessee Civil War National Heritage Area, will air on the Tennessee Public Broadcast System.

*Hallowed Ground, Preserving Tennessee's Battlefields*, an Emmy award-winning video, was released on DVD for distribution to over 2000 Tennessee schools.

*Fort Loudon in Tennessee, 1756-1760: History, Archaeology, Replication, Exhibits and Interpretation* by Dr. Carl Kuttruff is the culmination of more than 30 years of work at Tennessee's most significant French and Indian War site.

*Ready to Die for Liberty: Tennessee's United States Colored Troops in the Civil War*, an illustrated book written for middle and high school students, will be distributed to Tennessee schools.

*A Path Divided, Tennessee's Civil War Heritage Trail* is the state's most requested tourism brochure and is available at all Tennessee Welcome Centers. TWC also funded the companion web site.

*From Bridge to Bridge: The Civil War in East Tennessee*, a tourism brochure, was published by the TWC.



## Photographs

Front cover: Parker's Crossroads National Battlefield, courtesy of John Morgan.

Page 2: Reproduction artillery piece and waysides, Parker's Crossroads National Battlefield; Confederate Cemetery, Davis Bridge Battlefield, Hardeman County; Elk River at the site of Camp Blount, Lincoln County

Page 3, top row: Bledsoe Monument, Bledsoe's Fort Historical Park, Sumner County; Fort Loudoun State Park, Mexican War Monument, Gallatin Cemetery, Sumner County; Cannon on Missionary Ridge, Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park; bottom row: Carter House, Battle of Franklin; remains of wharf piers, Johnsonville State Historic Park; Wynnwood State Historic Area

Page 4: Reconstructed fence and walking trail, Parker's Crossroads National Battlefield; Davis Bridge Battlefield

Page 5: Longstreet/Nenney House, Russellville, Hamblen County; courtesy of the Longstreet Museum

Page 6: Exhibit gallery, Johnsonville State Historic Park; site of bridge over Hatchie River, Davis Bridge Battlefield; a school group at Parker's Crossroads National Battlefield; Fort Loudoun State Park

Page 7: Cold Springs School, Portland; Visitor Center exhibit, Fort Loudoun State Park; Johnsonville State Historic Park Visitor Center; monument honoring United States Colored Troops, Nashville National Cemetery

Back cover: Living history, Parker's Crossroads National Battlefield; Averitt-Herod House, Battle of Hartsville, Trousdale County; Davis Bridge Battlefield

# The Tennessee Wars Commission

## Fred Prouty

Director of Programs  
Military Sites Preservation Specialist

## Honors

Received The *Adjutant General's Distinguished Patriot Medal* from the Military Department of Tennessee in 2004

Presented "The Battle to Protect Civil War History" at the National Trust for Historic Preservation Conference in 2009

Received the Civil War Trust's *Chairman's Award of Excellence* for his efforts in preserving Tennessee's Civil War battlefields in 2012

Named to board of the Tennessee Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission

Named Chairman of the Preservation and Archaeology sub-committee of the Tennessee War of 1812 Bicentennial Commission

## Tennessee Wars Commission Committee

Rick Warwick  
Tobie Bledsoe  
Brent Cox  
Norm Hill  
Joanne Moore  
Walter Butler  
*Sam Elliott*



**Tennessee Wars Commission**  
2941 Lebanon Road  
Nashville, TN 37214

Telephone: (615) 532-1550 Ex. 104  
Fred.Prouty@tn.gov  
<http://www.tnhistoricalcommission.org>