



**Tennessee Wars Commission
Annual Report
December 2019**



TENNESSEE WARS COMMISSION

The Tennessee General Assembly enacted legislation in April 1994, creating the Tennessee Wars Commission (TWC), as a part of the Tennessee Historical Commission (THC.) Since its establishment 25 years ago—and with only one staff position--the TWC has helped acquire and permanently protect over 7000 acres of historic properties, including Davis Bridge Battlefield in Hardeman County and Parkers Crossroads in Henderson County. To date, our grant funding has supported over one hundred different projects that preserve, protect, and interpret Tennessee's military heritage. These projects have included funding archaeological excavations that pinpointed the location of Union fortifications in Franklin, publishing *A Survey of Sites Related to the American Revolution and War of 1812 in Tennessee*, and the creation of *A Path Divided: Tennessee's Civil War Heritage Trail*, long-recognized as the most-requested brochure at Tennessee Welcome Centers.

The Tennessee Wars Commission helps coordinate planning efforts, preservation, and promotion of structures, buildings, sites, and battlefields of Tennessee from the era of the French and Indian War (1754-1763), American Revolutionary War (1775-1783), War of 1812 (1812-1815), Mexican-American War (1846-1848) through the American Civil War (1861-1865). The Tennessee Wars Commission is also charged with acquiring or providing funds for the acquisition of battlefields, cemeteries, Underground Railroad sites, and other properties associated with these conflicts.

The business of the Tennessee Wars Commission is conducted at the regular meetings of the Tennessee Historical Commission. One staff member, Nina Scall, works on behalf of the Wars Commission as Director of Programs, THC Executive Director, Patrick McIntyre, Jr., serves as the Executive Director of the TWC. The Wars Commission is statutorily required to provide a yearly report on activities to the Governor, the Lieutenant Governor, and the Speaker of House.

Grant Funding

The Wars Commission's mission is realized in part by funding grants for a variety of projects, through civic and governmental engagement, as well as interpretation and education efforts. The administration of two grant funds, the Wars Commission Grant Fund (WCGF) and the Civil War Sites Preservation Grant Fund (CWSPF), support this preservation plan, and help to preserve and promote the structures, buildings, sites, and battlefields of Tennessee.

Wars Commission Grant Fund

This fund is available for various projects within Tennessee's diverse communities relating to the above wars. Any individual, museum, educational institution, private organization, or local government body can apply. This year's grant funds totaling \$115,610.00 were awarded to four applicants during the 2019 fiscal year (FY). The successful applicants and their projects are as follows:

1. Alvin C. York State Historic Park, Fentress County, was awarded \$1,810.00 to expand the park's narrative to include the interpretation of Camp McGinnis, an early confederate training camp. Funds were used for park staff to conduct living history programs in the park, in local schools, and on off-site properties. Additionally, grant funds were allocated to design, purchase, and install an interpretive panel in the park to explain the role Camp McGinnis played in training confederate soldiers and the impact that these confederates had on the citizens of the Wolf River Valley, including Alvin C. York's grandparents.

2. Parkers Crossroads Battlefield, Henderson County, was awarded \$48,800.00 in grant funds to purchase a replica Civil War artillery caisson and limber with munitions box as well as wayside signage. The addition of this replica weaponry will help to interpret the role that artillery played on

the battlefield. By providing a detailed interpretation of the logistical support, visitors will gain an understanding of the use of cannons that proved instrumental in the battlefield strategy at Parkers Crossroads. This interpretation is a rarity in battlefield parks and will have a positive impact on the visitor's experience and understanding of 19th-century weaponry and battlefield strategy.

3. The Battle of Franklin Trust, Williamson County, was awarded \$50,000.00 to assist in the purchase of interpretative panels and graphic displays for the new Carter House State Historic Site Visitor Center, a Tennessee Historical Commission capital project slated for construction in the future. These panels will interpret the broader context of America's history from its founding through the Civil War and the war's aftermath. Issues and themes will be addressed on a national, regional, and local level. The political and societal impacts of slavery will be a central theme. The role of Tennessee will be highlighted through presentations focused on members of the Carter family, such as Moscow Carter, who fought in the Mexican-American War and the Civil War, and Fountain Branch Carter, the grandson of a Revolutionary War veteran, who lived through the War of 1812, Mexican-American War, and the Civil War. Through interpretative displays and interactive elements, visitors will learn how men and women from Tennessee were involved in politics, legislation, and military actions.

4. Johnsonville State Historic Park, Humphreys County, was awarded \$15,000.00 for the purchase of a reproduction aluminum carriage for a field artillery piece. Johnsonville's current artillery carriages are surplus National Park Service (NPS) pieces from the 1930s, and have begun to deteriorate and are currently considered potentially hazardous to visitor safety. This grant facilitates the continued use of their artillery piece for interpretive purposes.

The grant cycle for the 2020 fiscal year concluded on November 15, 2019. Projects will be scored and presented to the Tennessee Historical Commission for final approval during the upcoming February 2020 meeting. The Wars Commission had nine applicants this year, more than ever before. The budget for the 2020 grant cycle is \$100,000.00.

Civil War Sites Preservation Fund

The Civil War Sites Preservation Fund provides matching funds for the acquisition and preservation of Civil War battlefields. Properties must be associated with the 38 most significant Civil War sites in Tennessee, as defined by the National Park Service. Funds can also assist in the acquisition and protection of Underground Railroad sites eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, or eligible for designation as a National Historic Landmark. Applicants must be a 501(c)(3). Since its conception in 2013, this grant fund has preserved over 850-acres of battlefield land. In the 2019-FY, this grant fund awarded \$3,097,837.00 for the acquisition of the following six tracts of land:



1. The O'Reilly Tract at the Stone's River Battlefield, Murfreesboro, Rutherford County, was preserved with the help of the American Battlefield Protection Program (ABPP) and the American Battlefield Trust (ABT). Located along State Highway One, this 42-acre parcel lies adjacent to the Stone's River National Battlefield, a National Park Service-owned site, and near land already preserved by the Trust. This battlefield property encompasses the land where Major General William Rosecrans (Union) and General Braxton Bragg (Confederate) faced off. This tract is the location of George Wagner's troop position during the Battle of Stone's River, December 31, 1862, to January 2, 1863. The Wars Commission provided **\$1,827,502.38** in grant funds.

2. The Brown Tract at the Shiloh Battlefield, Shiloh, Hardin County, was preserved with the help of the American Battlefield Trust and the American Battlefield Protection Program. The Battle of Shiloh was the location of the confrontation between Confederate General Albert Sidney Johnston and Union commanders Major General Ulysses S. Grant and Major General Don Carlos Buell. The Brown Tract, an eight-acre parcel located along the east side of Gladden Road, at the southern portion of the core battlefield, marks the location of Confederate Brigadier General Adley H. Gladden's battle line during the initial phase of the first day of the battle on April 6, 1862. Gladden's men suffered heavy casualties, including Gladden himself, who was mortally wounded by shrapnel. This Tract is adjacent to land already preserved with a conservation easement held by the Tennessee Historical Commission, expanding the historic viewshed. The Wars Commission awarded **\$23,260.00** in grant funds.

3. The Yarbro Farms Tract at the Battle of Salem Cemetery/Jackson Battlefield, City of Jackson, Madison County, was preserved with the help of the American Battlefield Trust and the American Battlefield Protection Program. The 120-acre parcel, located along Cotton Grove Road, surrounds the Salem Cemetery on three sides and is partially within the Jackson Battlefield boundaries. On December 18, 1862, Colonel Nathan Bedford Forest's confederate forces attacked Colonel Adolph Engelmann at Salem Cemetery, creating a diversion, so that Forest and a few men could destroy Union rail lines. Having accomplished his mission, Forest and his men withdrew. The Wars Commission granted **\$345,336.95** in grant funds.

4. The Chapin Tract at the Chattanooga and Wauhatchie Battlefields, Chattanooga, Hamilton County, was preserved with the help of the American Battlefield Trust and the American Battlefield Protection Program. Located along Browns Ferry Road, the approximately nine-acre tract lies in the core area of the Chattanooga and Wauhatchie Battlefields. This parcel contains the historic Brown's Tavern, a 212-year-old log home. This structure would have likely been conscripted into service as a shelter and meeting point during Major General Joseph Hooker's winter encampment in 1863/1864. Additionally, this Tract holds historical significance regarding the Trail of Tears and the 1838 Cherokee removal from Chattanooga. The Wars Commission granted **\$231,737.63** in grant funds.



ca. 1803 Browns Tavern, Located on the Chapin Tract, Chattanooga

5. The Spivey Tract at the Franklin Battlefield, Williamson County, was preserved with the help of Franklin's Charge Inc., the American Battlefield Trust, and the American Battlefield Protection Program. The approximately .72-acre tract lies along Columbia Avenue and is across from an already preserved portion of the battlefield. This tract is roughly 150 feet south of the main federal defensive line that was manned by General Thomas Ruger's Division which faced off with confederate troops led by General States Rights Gist and General George Gordon. Union lines were breached twice but were ultimately successful in holding confederate troops back, owing their success to Colonel Emerson Opdycke's reinforcements. This was a particularly bloody battle, taking the lives of six confederate generals. Since 1829, this parcel has been owned by the Carter family, a founding Franklin family. The Wars Commission awarded **\$630,000.00** in grant funds for the acquisition of this parcel.

6. The Appalachian Cultivation Tract at the Franklin Battlefield, Williamson County, was preserved with the help of the Battle of Franklin Trust, the American Battlefield Trust, and the American Battlefield Protection Program. The approximately 1.5-acre tract is located along Lewisburg Pike. This parcel lies on the far right of Lieutenant John Bell Hood's Confederate assault forces. This parcel is about 200 yards from the federal line where troops positioned ten guns. This section of the federal line was defended by Colonel Israel Stiles. The Wars Commission awarded **\$40,000.00** in grant funds for the acquisition of this parcel.

The grant cycle for the 2020 fiscal year concluded on October 15, 2019. Projects have been scored and will be presented to the Historical Commission for final approval during the upcoming February 2020 meeting. The Wars Commission had five applicants for the Civil War Sites Preservation Fund this year.

Civic and Government Engagement

In addition to managing two grant funds, the Wars Commission's mission is, in part, realized through civic and government engagement. The Wars Commission's Program Director has been serving as a historic preservation advocate to city, county, and local governments as well as to various nonprofit historical associations and historic sites throughout Tennessee. Additionally, she serves as a board member and a consultant in an advisory capacity to several boards and organizations.

Through education and preservation support, the Wars Commission has expanded historic interests and preservation participation by formulating new and strengthening existing relationships with historic sites and battlefield parks, historical societies, and heritage groups throughout Tennessee. Recent examples of this type of engagement and collaboration are threefold and activities include:

- Ongoing consultation with the Camp Blount planning committee and participation in the groundbreaking ceremony on August 16, 2019, commemorating the start of Phase I construction.
- On September 6, 2019, Parkers Crossroads, Shiloh National Military Park, and the Tennessee Historical Commission signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that created a formal affiliation between the sites, elevating the status of Parkers Crossroads.
- Since the summer, the Program Director has provided continuing support to the stakeholders at the Jackson Salem Cemetery on possible historic preservation efforts for the site, future interpretative plans, and potential site expansion and lands acquisitions.



Nina Scall and Patrick McIntyre at Parkers Crossroads, participating in the signing of a National Park Service affiliation agreement, September, 2019

Interpretation and Education

Interpretation and education efforts help to further advance the Wars Commission’s mission throughout Tennessee. Nina Scall’s recent work has included the development of an easement monitoring strategy. Site visits and property inspections ensure that the preservation clauses and conditions of these easements are being met by the property owners, as well as by providing an opportunity to photograph baseline conditions at some of the more recently acquired easement tracts. Interpretive metal signage will then be designed and installed, designating the properties as protected under easement by the State and the Tennessee Historical Commission. Currently, the Historical Commission holds conservation easements on approximately 880 acres of battlefield property in eight counties throughout Tennessee.

The Wars Commission continues to act in an advisory and oversight capacity for Camp Blount, a Tennessee Historical Commission-owned property administered by the City of Fayetteville. The Wars Commission supports their endeavors to open the site to the public. On November 20, 2019, Tennessee State archaeologists, Ben Nance and Dan Brock, and the Wars Commission’s Program Director, Nina Scall, conducted archaeological testing at the proposed Greer Cabin site. The objective of the work was to ensure that the cabin’s relocation and subsequent reconstruction would not impact any potential material culture located below



ground. Archaeologists were enthusiastic to report that the proposed site was void of any significant archaeological finds and the site was approved for the cabin’s construction.

Nina Scall and Camp Blount volunteers conducting archaeological testing at Camp Blount, Fayetteville, on November 20, 2019

The Wars Commission continues to advocate for the preservation and protection of Fort Negley. The Program Director recently joined the Fort Negley Technical Advisory Committee to consult on future plans for archaeology and the stabilization and interpretation of both the 1860s fort and the later work done by the WPA in the 1930s. Much has been accomplished in the 2019-FY, yet our work as preservation professionals is never done. Director Scall is looking forward to future preservation projects and battlefield acquisitions for the 2020 fiscal year.



TWC funded a master plan in 2010, which culminated in the ground breaking ceremony at Camp Blount that marked Phase I of construction. On August 16, 2019, Nina Scall and Patrick McIntyre participated in the ceremony with local representatives and state officials.