

**“CROSSROADS OF AMERICA’S EARLY FRONTIER”
KNOXVILLE, TENNESSEE HISTORICAL TRAILS**

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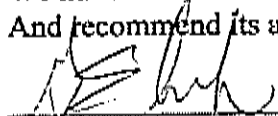
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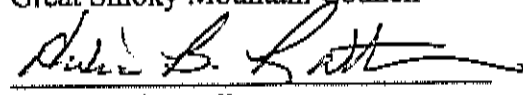
I am submitting herewith a Dissertation written by Walter Lynn Bates, entitled "Crossroads of America's Early Frontier, Knoxville, Tennessee Historical Trails." I have examined the final copy of this report for format and content and recommend that it be accepted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Degree of Commissioner Science.

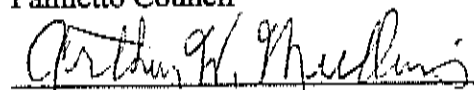

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We have read this Dissertation
And recommend its acceptance:

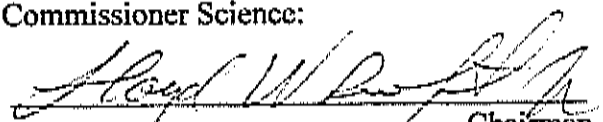

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of this project is two-fold. The first goal is to increase the involvement of Scouts in the community and help them gain a greater knowledge of their city and its history. The second goal is to revise and update the guide for the Knoxville, Tennessee Historical trail, which will become one instrument for achieving the first goal. The project will involve enlisting one troop to test the revised trail route. Historical information concerning points of interest along the trail will be added to the guide to provide a context to the meaning of the structures and sites visited. The historical information will be gathered by an examination of the scholarship concerning Knoxville, Tennessee's history. The dissertation will chronicle the methods used in completing the project in addition to containing the revised trail guide.

The completed project will serve as a resource for Scout leaders as well as the general public. The trail and its accompanying guide will be able to be used as a Scout works on his advancement, especially with regards to hiking and citizenship in the community. Scouts and the public will be able to earn a "Knoxville, Tennessee Historical Trail" patch for completing the hike.

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

As Scouts we pledge “To do my Duty to God and My Country.” Part of doing our duty to our country is making a positive impact in our community. In order to make a positive impact it is important to know about the town or community in which we live.

I have personally been interested in history since I was a youngster. As a youth, I hiked the Knoxville, Tennessee Historical Trail, which was originally developed by Steve Bynon, Troop 20 of the Great Smoky Mountain Council as his Eagle Scout project. The hike was very informative. It was also exciting to visit places that I had only read about. Although my vocation is not currently in history, I am trained academically as a historian and continue to have a keen interest in local history. I have noticed that over the last decade or so, fewer Scouts seem to be making use of the trail. The history of the State of Tennessee is not emphasized as much in the public schools as it once was. Also, over the 30 years since the hike’s inception, numerous changes have occurred to the infrastructure of the City of Knoxville, Tennessee. Parking availability, traffic patterns, neighborhood changes, as well as the demolition and construction of structures have altered the conditions that a hiker might encounter. One of the city’s most prominent features at the time of this revision (2006) did not exist when the hike was developed. The sunsphere structure was the main focal point of the 1982 World’s Fair hosted by the city. The East Tennessee History Center has also opened a new museum within the last year and a half and the Beck Cultural center has opened a new facility on the riverfront..

The Knoxville Historical Hike provides an overview of the city’s history, as well

as its geographical layout. The museums, and points of interest also provide a glimpse of the important periods of history, people and other geographical, economic, and political factors which have influenced the development of the city. Thus, the hike helps instill and develop a sense of community and civic pride in scouts and others that might hike the trail. In turn this civic pride can inspire Scouts and others to become more involved in their community and country-- To Do Their Duty.

As my project for the Doctoral Degree of Commissioner Science, within the curriculum of the Piedmont- Appalachian College of Commissioner Science, I have undertaken the revision and redevelopment of the Knoxville, Tennessee Historical Trail. The project involves the utilization of the original hike plan by Steve Bynon, Troop 20, Great Smoky Mountain Council, and revising it to current conditions. In the process of this revision, the project also involves developing a historical guide to points of historical and cultural interest, which will be incorporated into the trail brochure.

The trail will be utilized by both Scouts and the general public, so the benefits of the trail and guide will be enjoyed by both the individual hikers and the community as a whole. Copies of the trail guide will be available at the city's visitor center as well as the local Boy and Girl Scout council offices.

CHAPTER 2

METHODS

The brochure developed by Steve Bynon, Troop 20 in 1974 as his Eagle Scout project provides an excellent and vital tool, which can be used as a basis for a revised Knoxville Historical Trail. The first step in the project was to read Bynon's plan for the hike and make note of the important historical places that are highlighted. It was also important to examine the route and its layout. In the second step, it was then necessary to compare the route to present day conditions and to analyze any changes that may have occurred since 1974. The third step involved exploring the city's history over the past 32 years and deciding whether any historical aspects of those years should be included in the revised historical trail.

This process-- although three-fold-- did not occur all at once or necessarily in order. Some of the changes that have occurred within Knoxville have been dramatic, while others are quite subtle. In addition, once a change has occurred and the new condition or situation becomes routine, then it is easy not to recognize that there has been a change. It becomes necessary then to go over the trail route and the neighborhoods, both literally and figuratively several times in order to recognize changes, conditions, and situations that must be taken into account when planning and developing a new trail

route.

A prime example of this process is realizing that the 1982 World's Fair was hosted by Knoxville. As a result major changes occurred with regards to structures, roads, and walkways. With this knowledge, it can be noted that the area around the site of the fair has changed considerably since the hike's inception. Most noticeably is the construction of the fair's focal structure-- the sunsphere. The roads and walkways around this site have also been rerouted. It is harder to remember that since the fair the city has also constructed a new convention center on the site of what was the United States Pavilion during the fair and that also involved the rerouting of streets. Likewise, it is easy to overlook the fact that since the development of the original trail two blocks of buildings were torn down by a commercial company to build their corporate headquarters and campus. Furthermore, this property has more recently become the U.S. Courthouse. This fact is important, because in the process of reconstruction the campus covers part of Market Street and thus, there is no thoroughfare during non-business hours. A pedestrian must walk around three sides of the block, instead of one.

Once these steps have begun, it is then possible to start analyzing any necessary revisions to original historical hike route. One of the most significant changes to the hike layout is with regards to the starting point. The hike originally started at Confederate Memorial Hall, which is located approximately 2.5 miles from the city's downtown area and the main route of the hike. The operating hours of the Confederate Hall are limited as is the parking. Moreover, by altering the beginning and ending points of the hike, it is possible to create a loop trail. This eliminates the necessity of multiple cars, and

transporting from the ending point back to the beginning point once the hikers have finished. This also makes it easier to maintain two-deep leadership. After consideration of these factors it was decided to begin and end the hike at James White Fort in downtown Knoxville. There is more parking available. There are also restroom facilities for visitors. This change also allows the incorporation of the new Beck Cultural Center, the walkway along the waterfront, and the Knoxville riverboat. This route allows the hiker to begin with the site that is the beginning of the city's history-- the establishment of James White's Fort. This also allows the hiker to experience the area where two important modes of transportation come together at the river. This demonstrates the vital role both rail and river transportation played in the economics and development of the city. The city of Knoxville and the State of Tennessee have also widened the highways and roads between Confederate Memorial Hall and the downtown area. While pedestrian access is still possible, the amount of traffic flow has increased significantly over the past three decades. Thus changing the trail's starting point also provides greater pedestrian safety. Therefore the Confederate Memorial Hall will be listed among a list of nearby important historical sites that should be visited. This list will be part of the trail guide.

It is important to notice an additional change. The names of several streets in the downtown Knoxville area have changed over the past few years. This is especially the case with regards to the streets around James White Fort and those leading down to the waterfront area. A pedestrian bridge has also been constructed behind the City-County Building which connects the waterfront with the downtown area.

The original hike plan was also developed many years before September 11, 2001. Much like the way December 7, 1941 would hold no foreseen importance to a person in 1940, the events of September 11th were unthinkable to a person prior to that date. The effect of those events were both of national and international significance. On the local level the main effect is an increased awareness of both personal and group safety. This issue goes hand-in-hand with the increased emphasis by the Boy Scouts of America on safety in scouting activities. This issue has been considered while revising the hike route and units will be instructed to file the appropriate tour permits.

The City of Knoxville has commemorated the events of September 11, 2001 with a monument, which was placed on the lawn of the City-County Building. This will be noted in the guide as will be the erection of a statue of the author Alex Haley, which stands-- or in this case, sits reading a book-- in Morningside Park about a mile from the downtown area. Haley did not become famous until the late 1970s when his book about his search for his family history, Roots, became a television mini-series.

After the original plan had been examined, historical and cultural sites noted, and recent changes and history had been taken into consideration it was possible to plan a new route. As noted the main difference is with respect to the beginning and ending points. I next enlisted the aid of Troop 501 of Corryton, Knox County, Tennessee to hike the new trail route and make notes of any concerns, problems, issues, and additional changes that were necessary. I am the Scoutmaster of this troop, so we decided to use the hike as part of our Scouts' advancement trail. The boys brought their compasses and along with our maps we hiked the trail. We stopped at strategic places along the route to take compass

readings in order to assist them and other Scouts in the fulfillment of their map and compass requirements. We combined the hiking of the trail with a service project. On the Saturday of Memorial Day weekend, we assisted other scouts from our council in the placement of American flags on the graves in the U.S. National Cemetery located near downtown Knoxville. We then undertook the hike.

The physical hiking of the trail produced a significant concept with our hike route. We decided that the recent addition of museums in the downtown area had significantly increased the length of time that a group might need to hike the trail. The time spent in the museums might determine whether all of the route might be completed in a day or not. Therefore, we mapped out a basic trail route downtown, which includes the major museums. We then added three optional loops onto the main route. These are the Fort Dickerson Loop, The Fort Sanders Loop and the Old City loop. This gives all visitors an excellent overview of the City of Knoxville and its history with the basic trail. Hikers can then personalize their experience by having the option of adding additional parts to their hike. They can also choose to drive or hike the optional loops as time or physical limitations might dictate. This is especially true of the Fort Dickerson Loop. The majority of the basic trail is on approximately the same elevation levels with the exception of the waterfront, which is now handicapped accessible due to sloping walks and an elevator at the pedestrian bridge. Fort Dickerson sits on a hilltop overlooking the City of Knoxville. It is one of the best surviving earthen forts from the Civil War and is worth exploring. The trail to the fort is fairly long for inexperienced hikers, however. It does follow the sidewalk along a very busy street and then after you cross over the street

the road up to the fort is quite steep. Hikers who might have limitations, might wish to consider driving up to this landmark. Notations will be made in the guide about each optional loop with regards to its length and special considerations.

CHAPTER 3

RESULTS

On the Saturday of Memorial Day weekend, 2005 Troop 501, Corryton, Tennessee helped place American flags on the graves of veterans in the Knoxville National Cemetery. We then hiked the new route of the Knoxville Historical Trail. Although camping is not normally allowed on the trail, our troop had the opportunity to do so in August 2005. Our Assistant Scoutmaster is also the President of the James White Fort Association and the fort was holding a special event called Cherokee Heritage Days. In order to help provide security our troop camped inside the fort under the stars like the pioneers would have done. Our troop also helped set up for the event, carried water, assisted the living historians, and provided support to the site's administration. As a result of the combined activities, Troop 501 had four youth and two adults who earned the Boy Scouts of America's Historical Trails Award.

The results section of this paper contains the Knoxville, Tennessee Historical Trail Guide. This section will be reproduced for use by trail hikers.

KNOXVILLE HISTORICAL TRAIL

The Knoxville Historical Trail was originally developed in 1974 by Steve Bynon, Troop 20 as his Eagle Scout project. It was revised in 2006 by Walter Lynn Bates as a project of the Piedmont- Appalachian College of Commissioner Science, Boy Scouts of America. The trail is sponsored by the Great Smoky Mountain Council, Boy Scouts of America, Knoxville, Tennessee. The trail has been developed for the benefit of Scouts and others who may have an interest in learning about Knoxville's role as the "Crossroads of America's Early Frontier." The trail focuses on the development of Knoxville and its role in southern and national history.

Trail Description

The trail is designed as a hiking loop through downtown Knoxville. The trail begins and ends at James White Fort, so hikers may park at the fort and conveniently return to their vehicle upon completing the hike. The trail is designed so each group can personalize their visit to Knoxville. The main downtown loop is two miles long. This loop contains a number of museums and historical buildings, which can be toured. These will be described in the hiking directions. There are three optional hiking loops-- the Fort Dickerson Loop, the University of Tennessee/ Fort Sanders Loop and the Old City Loop-- that can be added to the main trail as desired and as time allows each group. Each of these loops has special features and historical significance. Groups should consult the individual loop descriptions for distances, route conditions, and directions. The hiking directions are printed in bold type. Historical information is also provided for the hiker's benefit.

Trail Regulations and Information

1. Safety should be always foremost in the minds of group leaders.
2. Scout groups should obtain the appropriate tour permits from the BSA council office.
Scout leaders shall always maintain two-deep leadership.
3. The main trail is designed to be hiked. The hiking directions may not match vehicular travel regulations.
4. Groups may opt to hike or travel by vehicle the optional loops. Individuals or groups with physical or time limitations may especially want to travel by vehicle to Fort Dickerson. Please obey all traffic laws.
5. It is not the intention of this guide in anyway to indicate the direction of travel regulated on any street or whether any street is open to vehicular traffic due to changes in city regulations.
6. Cross all streets at crosswalks.
7. Please wear clothing appropriate for the weather. It is also advisable for hikers to carry water with them.
8. This guide attempts to indicate where restroom facilities may be available.
9. There are restaurants available downtown, on the Fort Dickerson Loop, on Cumberland Avenue near the University of Tennessee/ Fort Sanders Loop, and on the Old City Loop. Types of food and prices vary. Groups may prefer to carry their lunch and eat along the trail. The waterfront, Fort Dickerson, World's Fair park and Market Square are especially good places for this.

10. Hours of operation for museums and historical sites are subject to change and may be closed on certain days.
11. Scouts should wear appropriate uniforms.
12. Each group assumes full responsibility and full liability for members of its party.
13. Please dispose of litter properly.
14. Hikers should respect others and property. They should be aware many historical items should not be handled.
15. Upon completion of the trail, hikers may purchase trail patches from the Great Smoky Mountain Council, Boy Scouts of America using the form in the back of this brochure.

KNOXVILLE, TENNESSEE

“The Crossroads of America’s Early Frontier”

Historical Background

The Tennessee valley has a long history. It is here that the waters of the Holston and French Broad Rivers join together to form the Tennessee River. For centuries the Holston has brought river traffic from the Northcast and the French Broad has brought river traffic from the East. Together as the Tennessee River, they flow Southwest and then North to join with the Ohio River. The land around the confluence of the Holston and French Broad bears the footprints of Cortez and the Spanish explorers, of the Cherokee and other Native American Tribes, of Daniel Boone and Davey Crockett, of John Sevier and Andrew Jackson, of soldiers of Blue and Gray, of pioneers traveling westward, northward, and southward to new lives, of doughboys marching off to fight the Kaiser, of workers building A-Bombs to shorten the end of World War Two, of authors like James Agee and Alex Haley, of actors like David Keith and Patricia Neal, and of people of all nations attending the World’s Fair. It is here that the trails of warriors and hunters, the tracks of canoes, horses and wagons, trains and horseless carriages, and the vapor trails of planes have all crossed.

Knoxville and its surrounding fields and hills was first the home of the Native Americans. By the 1760s, however, Europeans began to move into the East Tennessee and settle. During the American Revolution, settlers from this East Tennessee area

joined together to fight the British. On October 5, 1780, these men known as “The Overmountain Men” joined with troops from North Carolina and Virginia to defeat Colonel Ferguson and the British troops under his command at the Battle of King’s Mountain, South Carolina. This decisive battle was one of the turning points of the Revolutionary War, especially in the southern colonies. It eventually led to the British General Cornwallis’ surrender to General George Washington at Yorktown.

In 1786, a pioneer named James White selected a spot along Fist Creek near where it flows into the Tennessee river to build a mill and home. His structure soon included a fortification. In 1791, the town that had grown up around the fort was selected to become the new capitol of “The Territory of the United States South of the River Ohio.” William Blount was selected to serve as the governor and the town was named Knoxville in honor of the Secretary of War, Major General Henry Knox. That same year, Governor Blount, concluded a pact with the Cherokee Indian Nation, which came to be known as the Treaty of Holston. In 1792, Blount built the first frame house west of the mountains. His home, which also served as the capitol still stands and is one of the oldest structures in the area. General James White’s cabin was later moved south of the Tennessee River. It was reconstructed near the original site and reopened to the public in 1970.

The City of Knoxville was officially founded on October 3, 1791. General White had given the land for a cemetery and church and sold lots for the town. Blount and White are both buried in the cemetery beside the First Presbyterian Church on State Street. By 1796, there were enough people in the Tennessee region to form a State. Knoxville was selected as the first capitol for the state. It remained as the capitol until

1812. General John Sevier, who had led the “overmountain men” at the Battle of King’s Mountain was elected as the first governor. Knoxville would serve briefly again as Tennessee’s capitol from 1817 until 1818.

Davey Crockett is one of the most legendary individuals from the East Tennessee area. He spent part of his childhood at the family tavern, which stands in nearby Morristown. As a young man in 1812, Crockett and many other Tennessee men volunteered to fight with Andrew Jackson against the British and their Indian allies. Crockett would go on to serve in the U.S. Congress where he opposed the removal of the Cherokee Nation to western reservations in 1830. He eventually achieved historical fame as a defender of the Alamo during Texas’ fight for Independence from Mexico.

In the 1860’s, Knoxville was pulled into the Civil War raging around it. The phrase most associated with the Civil War-- “brother against brother”— probably could not be applied more to any other region than it was in Knoxville and East Tennessee. Tennessee was the last State to join the Confederacy, according to the popular vote. Although the state governor had already committed troops to the Confederacy and the fact that the rest of the state voted for secession on June 8, 1861, East Tennessee voted to remain in the Union. East Tennessee remained vastly loyal to the Union throughout the war despite several changes in the uniform color of the controlling army. Tennessee sent approximately 100,000 troops to the Confederate armies and another 30,000 volunteers to the Union Army.

“unlike the volunteer from the Northern states, the Union soldier from Tennessee was not tempted to enlist by a munificent state bounty, nor impelled by the force of public opinion, but on the contrary, to do so, he was forced to escape from an enemy’s watchful

guard at night, and leaving his home and all he held dear to the mercy of hostile foe, make his way across the bleak and cheerless mountains to the Union camps in Kentucky.”
Goodspeed’s History of Tennessee, Nashville: Goodspeed’s Publishing co., 1887.

Both the Confederate and Union governments recognized the psychological and military value of controlling East Tennessee. The Unionists made plans to burn the railroad bridges around Knoxville. These bridges were located on the Virginia Railroad that ran eastward and on the Chattanooga, and Dalton Georgia line that ran westward. They put their plan into action on the night of November 8, 1861. They destroyed the bridges over the Hiwassee River, Lick Creek, and three other streams. The bridges over the Holston River at Strawberry Plains, Jefferson County was saved, though, by the watchman. The situation in East Tennessee got to such a point that Confederate President Jefferson Davis ordered all citizens of East Tennessee to take an oath of allegiance to the Confederate States. Some residents left the region, some took the oath without any intentions to be bound by it, and others refused to do either. General Felix K. Zollicoffer was appointed as Confederate commander of East Tennessee. He set up his headquarters in Knoxville and made the fairgrounds into a Confederate military camp.

When the Confederate Army took over Knoxville, the city was put under martial law. The military confiscated all firearms. Supplies soon became very limited in Knoxville. Coffee, Tea, and spices were gone by early 1861, and a Salt Agency was established for the rationing and distribution of that precious commodity. Hospitals soon became necessary, so Doctors Francis Alexander Ramsey and Richard O. Curry established several Confederate military installations in the buildings of East Tennessee

University, in the building known as the Deaf and Dumb Asylum, and the courthouse. The Asylum General Hospital at first housed the State Deaf Mute School, and later after the Civil War it was used as the City Hall.

In June of 1863, U.S. General William P. Sanders began a move toward Knoxville, coming down from Kentucky in order to destroy the railroads along the Confederate supply line. The Confederates called for reinforcements from General Bragg at Chattanooga as U.S. General Ambrose Burnside moved down with the main body of his forces in August. With only about 6,000 men to Burnside's 20,000 and no reinforcements coming, the Confederates evacuated Knoxville and retreated toward Chattanooga after burning the bridge over the Tennessee River at Loudon. By the first of September, General Sanders' cavalry took over Knoxville and Burnside arrived on the third of the month. The engineers of the Union Army began building up the defenses of the city at once. Several forts were built on the bluffs south of the river and a bridge was constructed between the city and the forts to supply the forts with food and ammunition and to supply the city from the surrounding farms.

Confederate General Bragg soon ordered General Longstreet to move against and recapture Knoxville. Union scouts spotted Longstreet coming up Kingston Pike on November 17, and following orders from General Grant's staff to hold Knoxville at all costs, General Burnside ordered General Sanders' men moved up Kingston Pike and dug in near the home of Robert H. Armstrong. Confederate General McLaws soon moved up and stopped directly in front of the house. The fighting lasted most of the day and Sanders' men were forced to use fence rails for cover. By three o'clock the Confederate

attack became so fierce that a retreat was ordered. As General Sanders rode forward on his white horse to lead his men, he was shot by a Confederate sharpshooter, who was hiding in the tower of the Armstrong house. "On the next night, amid the gloom of darkness relieved only by flickering light of a lantern, he was buried in the yard of the Episcopal Church." by his fellow officers and General Burnside. [Oliver P. Temple, East Tennessee and the Civil War, 1899]

Longstreet then surrounded the city except for the river side. Supplies in Knoxville became scarce. All the livestock were slaughtered and salted and the military began to ration all necessities. Longstreet had forgotten, however, that Knoxville was in the center of an area loyal to the Union. Residents in the area floated supplies down the river at night to the Union Army. "In the final analysis, it was not the Union Army who won the battle for Knoxville, but the people of East Tennessee; for without them Knoxville might very possibly have been another Vicksburg." [Betsey Creekmore, Knoxville, 1958, p. 102.]

After receiving communications from Bragg that he was needed back at Chattanooga, Longstreet decided to attack on the morning of November 29, 1863. On that morning at dawn the Confederates charged the recently completed fort, named in honor of General Sanders. The Confederates suffered greatly when they attacked. They piled up in the ditch surrounding the fort, trying to swim the icy water. Few were able to climb the ice-covered parapet and when they reached the top they were shot, clubbed, and beaten. Lieutenant Benjamin, commander of the fort lit grenades with his cigar and threw them at the attackers. The attack lasted only twenty minutes, but the Confederates lost

about 800 killed and wounded and up to 300 were taken prisoner. The major factor to the Confederate defeat was the defenses of the fort. Telegraph wire had been strung on tree stumps in order to trip the attackers. The ditch was 11 feet deep in places and filled with water. The parapet had been built up with cotton bales and had been iced down the night before, and four thousand loaded guns had been placed in the fort. The battle cost the Confederates 26 lives for every Union Soldier killed. A few days later the Confederates captured a Union courier, who was carrying messages that indicated Sherman was on the way to aid Burnside. Longstreet, therefore, retreated leaving Knoxville in the hands of the Union Army for the duration of the war.

In October 1890, the veterans of the Battle of Fort Sanders held a reunion and General Longstreet was a honored guest. Today a University of Tennessee high rise apartment building stands over the sight of Fort Sanders. Two monuments stand solemnly by themselves-- two blocks apart from each other-- on Fort Sanders Hill. One honors the New York Highlanders, who defended the fort, while the other perpetuates the memory of the brave Confederates who paid the final sacrifice in the line of duty.

Following the Battle of Knoxville, the city was used by Union armies to help supply and support their advances on Chattanooga, Tennessee and Atlanta, Georgia. Thousands of men from Knoxville and the surrounding area fought on both sides through all of these battles and up until the end of the war. Less than one week after the surrender of the Confederate Army at Appomattox, Virginia an assassin took the life of U.S. President Abraham Lincoln. His Vice President, Andrew Johnson took the oath as President of the United States. Johnson 's home was located in Greeneville, Tennessee

located about 70 miles from Knoxville.

East Tennesseans and Knoxvillians would answer the call to serve their country again and again over the next century. During the Spanish-American War, men joined both state and national units. Many would serve overseas, some as far away as the Philippines. Today a statue of a Spanish- American infantryman stands guard over the courthouse lawn. During World War I, Knoxvillians again distinguished themselves. General Lawrence Tyson had served as a colonel in the Spanish-American War. President Wilson appointed him general at the beginning of World War One. He was the only Brigadier General from Tennessee. He commanded the 59th Brigade, which was the first unit to break Germany's Hindenburg Line, which led to the end of the war. General Tyson's son, McGee had volunteered for the Naval Reserve Flying Corps. Lieutenant Tyson was shot down in 1918. He was the first Tennessee aviator to fall in battle. He is buried in Old Gray cemetery along with his parents. Knoxville's airport-- which was originally located on Sutherland Avenue-- is named for this young aviator. Another Knoxvillian of note during World War I is Dr. Carroll Gideon Bull. In 1910 he had served as a Professor of the Lincoln Memorial University, Medical Department, which was located off of Central Avenue near the National Cemetery. By World War I he had discovered the antitoxin for gas gangrene, while working in New York. During the war he served as a Major in the U.S. Army Medical Corps and demonstrated the use of the antitoxin in England and France.

Even before James White selected the site for his cabin and mill, Knoxville has been a center of commerce. Throughout Knoxville's history, the river has been a path

channeling that trade. Native Americans first used canoes along the waterway. As Europeans begin to migrate into the area, first flatboats then steamboats begin to appear on the rivers. By the mid 1800's railroads were established connecting Knoxville to the other major cities of the South. Railroads played a major role during the civil war in moving men and supplies for both armies. While supplies and people are moved along roads more than rail in the 21st century, Knoxville is still a "Crossroads of America." Knoxville is the center point of a compass or the hub of a wheel with major interstates running North, South, East, West, and Northeast.

During the 1930s, Knoxville suffered like the rest of the country. President Franklin Roosevelt's New Deal program, the Tennessee Valley Authority brought about great developments in the Knoxville area, however. Waterways again played a major role in the area's history as the TVA dammed river to control annual flooding. In doing so, the rivers with their hydroelectric power plants produced electricity for the region. Vast areas of the Appalachian Mountains and Tennessee Valley obtained electric power for the first time. Knoxville also benefited during the New Deal as the WPA built bridges around the city and helped construct bridges and roads in the nearby Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

Knoxvillians volunteered to serve their country after the bombing of Pearl Harbor by the Japanese on December 7, 1941. Many men served in the armed forces. One Knoxville family had five sons serving in the Army, Navy, and Marines. Knoxville along with its neighboring cities of Alcoa and Oak Ridge played a major role in the home front industries. Oak Ridge actually began its history as "The Secret City." The city sprung up

over night as a government installation. Workers from Oak Ridge, Knoxville, and the area helped develop the atomic bomb, which led to the end of World War II in 1945 and saved American lives.

The energy of the atom, the sun, and natural fuels was highlighted years later at the 1982 World's Fair. Nations from all around the world gathered in Knoxville to demonstrated the power and technology associated with energy and display their culture. Tens of thousands of visitors visited the fair that year. The Sunsphere structure now highlights the Knoxville skyline.

Knoxville has a long and rich history. It is a story of people— pioneers, volunteers, individuals exploring the world around them through technology, literature, and culture. The Knoxville Historical Hike allows you to explore a part of that past to understand the present, and how the past has influenced the present and the future.

Hiking Directions

Main downtown loop- 2.2 miles long.

Begin at James White's Fort, 205 E. Hill Avenue.

Parking available

Historical tour available

Admission cost

Restrooms available to visitors

General James White's Fort is a reconstruction of the original, which was begun in 1785. The fort originally stood near the First Presbyterian Church on State Street. The accompanying tub mill was located along First Creek. The original cabin was later moved south of the Tennessee River. It was moved to its present site, restored and opened to the public in 1970. The main house and kitchen are original except for the doors, windows, and roof. The fort structure was not so much as a guard against Indian attacks, but rather for protection of the livestock quartered inside from theft and wild animals. James White died in 1821 and is buried in the cemetery of First Presbyterian Church.

When you come out of the door of the fort, turn right. Cross Hill Avenue and follow Volunteer Landing Lane down the hill. Go to the stop sign and turn left. The Beck Cultural Center is on the corner.

The Beck Cultural Exchange Center is dedicated to the research, collection, conservation, and exhibition of achievements of local black people. The center features very interesting exhibits on the history of the city and also on the role of blacks in baseball, both in the

Negro leagues, and later in the major leagues. There is a waterfall behind the center.

When exiting the cultural center turn left and follow the sidewalk down past the restaurant. Turn left and follow the sidewalk to the river. Cross the railroad tracks, turn right and go across the footbridge.

The Knoxville Waterfront has a lot of interesting aspects. This is also a good place for scouts to take compass sightings across the river. The church on the south side of the river is a good landmark for sighting. The waterfront has a playground and fountains. Along the walkway you will find monuments describing the history associated with the river. A large stone monument commemorating the Treaty of Holston in 1791 is near the east end of the walk. The Three Rivers Rambler Train excursion runs along the railroad tracks here.

Follow the walkway west under the Gay Street Bridge and toward Volunteer Landing.

There are public restrooms available at the brick towers at the landing.

Take the steps or the elevator up from the landing to the crosswalk level. Cross the pedestrian bridge over Neyland Drive.

There are several audio historical monuments located on various levels of the tower.

Proceed up Walnut Street alongside the City-County Building. NOTE: THIS IS VERY STEEP.

To stay on the Main downtown loop turn left on Hill Avenue.

[To take the Fort Dickerson Loop turn left on Hill Avenue. Please refer to the Fort Dickerson section for further directions.]

To continue along the main downtown loop, follow Hill Avenue West to Henley Street. Turn right on Henley Street. Proceed north one block to Main Street. Turn left and cross Henley Street to the south corner of Henley and Cumberland Avenue. The Church Street United Methodist Church sits on this corner.

To continue on downtown loop cross Cumberland and proceeding North on Henley with the Knoxville Convention Center on your left.

[To take the University of Tennessee/ Fort Sanders loop proceed West on Cumberland Avenue, going down the hill and under the railroad bridge. Refer to the University of Tennessee/ Fort Sanders Loop section for further directions.]

By proceeding North along Henley Street from Cumberland Avenue, you will pass the convention center. Turn left onto Clinch Avenue. There are escalators and an elevator inside the hotel, which can take you down to the park level. Or the park can be accessed from the outside of the building.

The Sunsphere structure from the 1982 World's Fair stands behind the Knoxville Convention Center. There are lawns and fountains in the World's Fair park located at the base of the Sunsphere. The fountains are called the "Waters of the World." There is a marker commemorating the World's Fair near the fountains. At the time of this revision (2006), there are also plans for a East Tennessee veteran's memorial in the park.

Restrooms are available in the hotel and the exhibition center on the first level.

Hikers can proceed North through the park. You take the steps up the back of the L&N Railroad depot and follow the porch around to the left. If access to the steps is

limited at the time of your hike you can follow the walkways around the left side of the building and around to the front of the depot.

The World's Fair site was the rail yard for the L&N railroad before the fair. Several of the yard buildings still stand near the depot. The "Foundry" served as the German Hall during the Fair.

From the front of the depot climb the steps to Western Avenue. Turn right and go to the corner of Western Avenue and Henley Street. Cross Henley Street. You will be headed East on Summitt Hill Avenue.

On your right you will see the main Knoxville Fire Station, which houses the ladder and pumper trucks. On the front lawn you will find a glass enclosure sheltering one of Knoxville early horse-drawn steam pumpers. This one dates from about 1908. There is also a fountain and statue in memory of fallen fire fighters.

Across the street from the fire station stands a building originally built in 1847. It was originally called the Deaf and Dumb Asylum. It was a shelter for special needs individuals. It served as a hospital during the Civil War, first for the Confederates and later the Union Army. In the early part of the twentieth century it served as the City Hall. In the late 1980s the building was restored and used as offices.

Continue East on Summitt Hill Avenue. If you wish to continue on the downtown loop continue to Gay Street. [If you wish to follow the Old City loop, turn North on Walnut Street. See the section on the Old City loop for further directions.]

The Knoxville Visitor's Center is currently located on the southwest corner of

Gay Street and Summitt Hill Avenue. It houses a restaurant, gift shop, and radio station.

Turn right on Gay Street and proceed South to Wall Avenue. Turn right on Wall Ave. Proceed one block and turn left (South) into Market Square.

In the square you will find a historical marker describing the history of the Market House. This area was used even before the Civil War as a place for merchants and farmers to bring their wares and produce for sale. Today there are retail and food establishments as well as offices. The city hosts many special events here also.

Proceed South through the square and then through Krutch Park in the next block. It borders Market Street. Turn left on Clinch Avenue and proceed one block to Gay Street.

Hikers may wish to make note of the historical buildings as well as retail establishments along Gay Street. [Several renovations are underway in 2006.] The Millers Building at the corner of Union Avenue and Gay Street was recently restored. It along with the Kress building and others housed the department stores and “5 & 10 Stores,” and drug stores during the early to mid 1900s. On the corner of Clinch and Gay Street you will find the East Tennessee Historical center. It houses a museum, which features a 1920 Knoxville streetscape. This streetscape is highlighted by a restored street trolley and a restored drug store front. The center also houses historical archives and a genealogy research center.

After visiting the Historical Center proceed South on Gay Street. On the opposite side of the street you will see the restored Tennessee Theatre, which is listed on the National Register of historical places, and the old Farragut Hotel

Building. You will also pass the historic Bijou Theatre (1816). Continue until you reach Main Street. Turn right. Continue West until you reach the gates of the building on your right.

The large building in this block crosses over Market Street. Access is limited during non-business hours. This building was built to house corporate offices, but was later converted into a U.S. Courthouse. You may wish to look inside the courtyard.

Continue West on Main Street until you reach Walnut Street.

The marble building across the street is the former main post office for Knoxville and the U.S. Courthouse. It was built in 1932 as a New Deal project. Part of the East Tennessee Historical Center-- the Customs House building on Market Street served as the post office before this one.

Turn left and cross Main Street at Walnut Street. Proceed back East along Main Street. The City-County Building and Old Knox County Courthouse are on your right.

On the lawn of the City- County Building you will find a monument in memory of the events of September 11, 2001. On the lawn of the Old Courthouse, which was built in 1885, you will find a monument of a Spanish-American Soldier. The cannons on display are actually fiberglass replicas of cannons captured during the Spanish-American War. Those cannons were on display until they were needed due to material shortages in World War II. Likewise the iron fence around the lawn is a replacement for the original, which was also melted down during World War II. Hikers will also find on the lawn of the Old Courthouse the graves of General John Sevier, the first Governor of Tennessee,

and his wives. Sevier was originally buried in Alabama, but his remains were later interred here.

After exploring the lawn of the courthouse, proceed down the steps and through the archway at the corner of Main Street and Gay Street. Cross Gay Street to the East Side and turn right. Proceed South one block to Hill Avenue.

You will pass the former Andrew Johnson Hotel. It is in this hotel that the early country music pioneer, Hank Williams, spent his last night.

Cross Hill Avenue. On the Corner of Hill Avenue and Gay Street is Blount Mansion.

Blount Mansion was built in 1792 by Governor William Blount. Blount was a signer of the U.S. Constitution. He was appointed Governor of the U.S. Territory South of the River Ohio. His home served as the capitol of the territory. Blount is buried in the cemetery of the First Presbyterian Church.

Tours are available.

Admission cost.

Gift shop.

After visiting Blount Mansion, turn East and cross the bridge on Hill Avenue.

James White's Fort is on your left as you cross the bridge.

Fort Dickerson Loop- 3.1 miles loop.

After coming up Walnut Street from the waterfront, turn right on Hill Ave. Proceed to Gay Street. Turn Right on Gay Street and cross the Gay Street bridge

over the Tennessee River. Turn Right on Blount Avenue. Follow Blount avenue west. In front of Baptist Hospital, cross Blount Avenue at the crosswalk at Kay Street. Continue west on Blount to Chapman Highway. Turn left on Chapman Highway.

There are restaurants on both sides of Chapman Highway, but the sidewalk is only on the East side. Be very careful if you cross the road. Traffic is very heavy.

Proceed South on Chapman Highway across the railroad tracks. On your left is the Kerns Bakery Building.

You will find a historical marker in front of the Shoney's Restaurant describing Fort Dickerson and Fort Stanley.

Proceed South until you go over a hill and come to the traffic light at Woodlawn Avenue. Turn Right and cross Chapman Highway at the light. Turn right and proceed back up the hill a short ways to the entrance of Fort Dickerson park. Turn left and proceed up Fort Dickerson Road. THIS ROAD IS VERY STEEP. Proceed to the top of the hill were there is a cul-de-sac.

You will find the remains of the fort on your right up a slight hill. Fort Dickerson is one of the best preserved earthen forts from the Civil War. There are picnic tables across from the remains of the fort. There are also great views of the city from this vantage point.

After visiting the fort proceed back down the hill. There is an overlook on your right near the bottom. Return to Chapman Highway. Turn Right. Cross the road at the light (Woodlawn Avenue). Turn left and follow Chapman Highway

back North towards the river. When you reach Blount Avenue, turn right and go to Kay Street. Cross Blount Avenue at Kay Street and turn left and proceed back to Chapman Highway. Turn right. The road becomes Henley Street at this point. Cross the Henley Street Bridge over the river. After you cross the bridge Hill Avenue will be on your right. You rejoin the downtown loop at this point.

University of Tennessee/ Fort Sanders Loop- 1.9 miles long.

After crossing Henley Street at Main Street, you will be on the Southwest corner of Cumberland Avenue and Henley Street. The Church Street United Methodist Church is on this corner. Proceed West on Cumberland Avenue. You will pass under the railroad bridge and continue up a long hill. You will see the University of Tennessee sign on your left and pass under a pedestrian bridge. Near the top of the hill you will see one of the entrances to the University of Tennessee on your left. You will also pass the University Center on corner of Phillip Fulmer Way and Cumberland.

You will pass several historical markers on this route. One of the University's gift shops is located in the University Center.

Proceed past the University Center and under a pedestrian bridge in the next block. Proceed up the hill to Seventeenth Street (on Right).

Hikers will find a number and variety of restaurants ahead on Cumberland Avenue.

Cross Cumberland Avenue at Seventeenth Street, then cross Seventeenth

Street to its west sidewalk. Proceed North On Seventeenth Street up the hill. After you cross Clinch Avenue you will find the Confederate monument to the Southern soldiers you attacked Fort Sanders on November 29, 1863. After visiting the monument return back to the intersection of Seventeenth and Clinch Avenue. Cross Seventeenth Street and proceed East on Clinch Avenue back toward the downtown area. At the intersection of Clinch Avenue and Sixteenth Street you will find the monument to the 79th New York Highlanders, who defended the Fort Sanders during the attack. Continue east on Clinch Avenue until you reach the World's Fair Park. You may proceed down the steps into the park or continue across the bridge to Henley Street. You rejoin the main downtown loop at this point and will turn north either on Henley Street or in the park in order to proceed to the L&N Railroad Depot.

Old City Loop- 0.9 miles long.

After visiting the Fire Station you will proceed east on Summitt Hill Avenue to Walnut Street. Turn Left across Summitt Hill onto Walnut Street. Proceed one block to Vine Avenue.

On the corner of Walnut And Vine is the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church. Father Abram J. Ryan was pastor here from 1865-1867. He had served as a Confederate Chaplain and was known as the poet of the Confederacy. Right after Lee's surrender to Grant at Appomattox, Virginia in 1865, Ryan wrote a requiem for the Lost Cause, "The Conquered Banner."

Turn right on Vine Avenue. Proceed East to Gay Street. Turn left and

proceed North to Jackson Avenue (right before the railroad bridge). The Southern Railroad Depot stands across the tracks. Turn right on Jackson Avenue. Proceed East on Jackson avenue until you reach Central Avenue.

There is a variety of food and retail establishments in the Old City area, which is centered around Jackson and Central Avenues.

Turn right on Central Avenue and proceed South to Summitt Hill Avenue. Cross Summitt Hill Avenue and turn right. Proceed West and up the hill to Gay Street. The city Visitor's Center is on the Southwest corner of Gay Street and Summitt Hill Avenue. You rejoin the main downtown loop at this point.

Nearby Historical Sites and Points of Interest.

Alex Haley Statue- Haley Heritage Square- Morningside Park, 1600 Dandridge Avenue.

The 13- foot tall statue sits reading a book in memory of Alex Haley, a resident of Knoxville, who is known for his book, **Roots**, and his storytelling of the African-American experience.

American Museum of Science and Energy- 300 S. Tulane Avenue, Oak Ridge. This energy museum chronicles the role Oak Ridge and the area had during World War Two, and the importance of nuclear science.

Armstrong-Lockett House- 2728 Kingston Pike. Built in 1834, this historical home is a museum of 19th century life.

Bethel Cemetery- 1711 Dandridge Avenue. Part of the Mabry Hazen Historic site. This cemetery is the resting place of Confederate soldiers from the Battle of Knoxville.

Confederate Memorial Hall- 3148 Kingston Pike. This home is a Confederate museum. It was from the tower of this house that a Confederate sniper mortally wounded U.S. General William Sanders in 1863.

Farragut Folklife Museum- 11408 Municipal Center Drive, Farragut. This museum contains relics related to the first Admiral of the Navy and Civil War hero, David G. Farragut.

First Presbyterian Church and Cemetery- 620 State Street. Located one block off the main downtown Trail loop. The church was first begun in 1792 on land cleared by James White in 1786. The church is the oldest in Knoxville. White and Territorial Governor William Blount are buried here.

Mabry-Hazen House- 1711 Dandridge Avenue. This house served as the Confederate Headquarters during its occupation of Knoxville. It was later used by the Union Army.

Marble Springs State Historic Site- 1220 West Governor John Sevier Highway. This is the restored farm of Tennessee's first Governor, John Sevier.

McClung Museum- 1327 Circle Park Drive, University of Tennessee Campus. This museum contains collections of Native Americans, anthropology, and the East Tennessee area.

Museum of Appalachia- 2819 Andersonville Highway, Clinton. This museum features log cabins, homes, barns, tools, and livestock of early frontier life in Tennessee.

Knoxville National Cemetery- Tyson Street. This cemetery was begun after the battle of Knoxville with the burial of the 79th New York Highlanders killed in the battle. It now has a monument to the Union Soldiers of the Civil War. It is the resting place of veterans since the Civil War.

Old Gray Cemetery- 543 North Broadway. This is the final resting place of governors, judges, generals, and others.

Ramsey House- 2614 Thorngrove Pike. Built in the late 1790s, it is the first stone house in Knox County. It is a museum of 18th century life.

World War One Doughboy Statue- Fifth Avenue. This statue stands in front of the old Knoxville High School in memory of Knoxville's World War I veterans.

Knoxville Historical Trails Hiking Record

Unit/Group _____
Date Hike Taken _____

Hiker Registration (Please print)

Name	Name
1. _____	11. _____
2. _____	12. _____
3. _____	13. _____
4. _____	14. _____
5. _____	15. _____
6. _____	16. _____
7. _____	17. _____
8. _____	18. _____
9. _____	19. _____
10. _____	20. _____

I hereby certify that the above-named persons have completed the Knoxville Historical Trail Hike.

Hike Leader _____

Patch Order Form

No. _____ Trail patches @ \$4.00.each= _____ Total.

Please mail Patches to:

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Send this order form with a check or money order to:

The Knoxville Historical Trail
Great Smoky Mountain Council, BSA
Box 51885
Knoxville, TN 37950-1885

CHAPTER 4

CONCLUSIONS

The Knoxville Historical Trail will provide Scouts as well as the general public a better awareness of the history of Knoxville. Hikers can develop a sense of community by studying the historical information provided in the guide and discovering pieces of Knoxville's history as they experience the city. The Knoxville Historical Trail Guide produced in the course of this project will be a tool for developing civic pride. This civic pride then gives a scout a better foundation for future civic service and involvement. Knoxville has a long interesting history. It played an important role in the growth and development of our region and nation by being the "Crossroads of America's Early Frontier." Knoxville is likewise positioned geographically, and figuratively to play a role in the future.

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