



## NEWS RELEASE

May 25, 2010

For Immediate Release

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## **History Before Your Eyes at The Hermitage**

### **Sundays Live! 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Historical Performance Series**

NASHVILLE, TN (May 25, 2010) – The Hermitage, Home of President Andrew has a series of Sunday summer treats for those who've wished they could step back in time and witness history with their own eyes. For the third year, Sundays Live! living history programs at The Hermitage will be presented by Myers Brown, Curator of Extension Services for the Tennessee State Museum. On eight Sunday afternoons from June until October, these costumed programs discussing significant events during the lifetime and influence of General Andrew Jackson will be on-going from 1:30 – 4:30 p.m. in and around the backyard of the Hermitage mansion. The programs are free with the purchase of regular admission. Program dates and descriptions are noted below.

Myers Brown, who serves as Governor of the Company of Military Historians, is a widely recognized expert in the field of military history with a number of published articles and book reviews. He holds a B.A. in History from Oglethorpe University and an M.A. in Public History

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from Middle Tennessee State University. Myers is particularly interested in Civil War cavalry, the Mexican War and the War of 1812. He and his wife, Angie, and their daughter, Morgan, make their home in Old Hickory.

### **Sundays Live! Program Dates and Descriptions**

**June 6 and September 19 – “*Gone to Texas: Tennessee and the Texas Revolution*”** – In the 1820s and 1830s thousands of southerners moved to the Mexican territory of Texas. Eventually, Texas revolted against Mexico and secured its independence under the leadership of Andrew Jackson’s protégé Sam Houston. **Set in 1835, this program discusses the influence of Jackson on Texas and the migration of many Tennesseans to the west and utilizes horses, period tack, and clothing.**

**July 11 and October 3 – “*The American Revolution in the Southern Backcountry*”** - Fighting in the backcountry rarely involved open conflict with British soldiers, but instead took the form of civil war as colonists split over loyalty to the British crown. While patriot citizen-soldiers waged war on loyalist neighbors, they also occasionally faced off against Cherokees allied to the British. The war in the backcountry was savage, vicious, and personal. Among the families swept into the maelstrom were the Jacksons of the Waxhaw in South Carolina. Andrew Jackson, a mere boy at the time, served with American forces and suffered a severe reprimand and beating from a British officer and his mother and brother both died due to the war. Indeed, many Jackson’s experiences during the American Revolution spawned his hatred and distrust of the British. **This program will demonstrate the clothing, equipment, and weapons of patriot forces serving in the backcountry and will discuss the battles in which they participated such as King’s Mountain, Long Island, and Cowpens.**

**August 1 – “*Swamps, Snakes and Seminoles: The Second Seminole War*”** - Andrew Jackson served as the military governor of Florida after American acquisition in 1819 and he served as President when the Indian Removal Act resulted in the relocation of thousands of Southeastern Native-Americans to Oklahoma. Without doubt, the tribe that offered the most resistance to removal was the Seminole of Florida. Beginning in the 1830’s the U.S. Army maintained a continuous battle with the Seminoles for nearly fifteen years. Often battling the environment more than the Seminoles, hundreds of American soldiers suffered in the swamps of central and south Florida in an effort to pacify and relocate the stalwarts such as Osceola. **This program demonstrates the weapons, equipment, clothing, and personal items of the American soldier of the 1830’s as he struggled to survive in the hostile environment.**

**August 15 – “*Regulars By God: The US Army in the War of 1812*”** – Based on a quote from a British officer who wrongfully first assumed the US army he faced to be no more than a simple militia, **this program depicts the life of an early American soldier – what he ate, what he earned, and how he fought.**

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**August 29 – “The Hero of New Orleans: How Andrew Jackson Formed an Army and Saved the United States” - This program utilizes a costumed interpreter, maps, weapons, and uniforms to explain the importance of the Battle of New Orleans.** Jackson’s ability to form an army from a motley conglomeration of militia, volunteers, Choctaw Indians, pirates, freed blacks, sailors, marines, and army regulars stands out as one of the most amazing stories in American history. Even more astonishing is his ability to defeat the best army in the world on the plains of Chalmette.

**September 5 – To Avenge Fort Mims: The First Creek War” - The Creek Indian attack on Fort Mims in south Alabama in 1813 brought Andrew Jackson into the midst of the War of 1812. Delivering the Creeks a major defeat at Horseshoe Bend, Jackson became a regional hero, leading him on a course to national prominence. This program is set in 1813 as horse-mounted volunteers under General Jackson prepare to move against the Creeks under the able leadership of General John Coffee.**

### **ABOUT THE HERMITAGE:**

The Hermitage, Home of President Andrew Jackson, is one of the largest and most visited presidential homes in the United States. In 1856, the State of Tennessee purchased the property from the Jackson family, entrusting it to the Ladies’ Hermitage Association in 1889 to operate as one of America’s first historic site museums. Today, The Hermitage is a 1,120-acre National Historic Landmark with over 30 historic buildings, including restored slave cabins. Thanks to efforts of this nonprofit organization, the mansion is the most accurately preserved early presidential home in the country.

The Hermitage is a national model for authenticity, conservation, and historic preservation. In recent years, new interpretive initiatives and educational programs such as archaeology and the history of slavery have enhanced the experience of some 180,000 annual visitors, including 30,000 schoolchildren, from all 50 states and many foreign countries; in fact, we interpret the Hermitage mansion in five foreign languages. The property also receives 30,000 annual visits from the local community, including over 1,000 children who play Little League baseball at The Hermitage's Rotary Park. The Hermitage is Nashville’s first Smithsonian Institution Affiliate Museum; a “Partner Place” with the National Trust for Historic Preservation; and a site along the National Park Service’s Trail of Tears National Historic Trail.

### **TICKET INFORMATION:**

For more information, please call 615.889.2941. The Hermitage is open daily from 8:30am-5:00pm and located just 15 minutes from downtown Nashville, I-40 to exit 221 or I-65 to exit 92; take Old Hickory Boulevard from either exit.

[www.thehermitage.com](http://www.thehermitage.com)

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