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Influential Factors on Historic Interpretation:
A Case Study of Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site

A thesis
presented to
the faculty of the Department of History
East Tennessee State University

In partial fulfillment
of the requirements for the degree
Master of Arts in History

by
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May 2020

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Interpretation, Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site, Influences, Appalachian History, East
Tennessee History

ABSTRACT

Influential Factors on Historic Interpretation: A Case Study of Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site

by

Matthew James Frye

Influences on the interpretation of Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site have caused many alterations to the site and the presentation of its history. Scholars have described how public history sites have continually expanded their interpretations as growing desires and interests from external influences such as the general public, state agencies, and donors. However, Tipton-Haynes has also faced many internal influences. While the creators of the site aided in the limitation and exclusion of the site's vital history, over time the involvement and opinions of the board of trustee members, directors, and staff shaped an increasingly inclusive and expansive interpretation of the site. Therefore, the experience at Tipton-Haynes suggests that scholars should also consider the innerworkings of a historic site and the opinions of not just the community but also the opinions and choices of the people involved in the site and its creation. The inclusivity allows for a more expansive history while also creating new connections between the history of Tipton-Haynes and the general public.

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CHAPTER 1. INTRODUCTION

In 1971, members of the Tipton-Haynes Historical Association (hereafter the Association) were determined to put on a theatrical play. Committed to preserving the Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site in order to provide educational experiences for the public, the Association envisioned a fundraiser for the site that would also raise awareness of the site's first inhabitant. As a script written for the play in 1971 by Lincoln Memorial University Professor Dr. Earl Hobson Smith reveals, *The Lost State of Franklin: A Frontier Chronicle* was to portray the life and events of Colonel John Tipton throughout the Franklin movement and how a battle on his property impacted the outcome of the failed state. The fall of the movement occurred during the battle, which was fought on the Tipton-Haynes property and essentially ended the Franklin movement for statehood (1784-1788).¹ The staging of the play remained an aspiration of the site for almost eighteen years, but was never brought to fruition because the Tennessee state historian refused to support the event. However, the lack of support failed to end the Association's efforts to offer the public information and education on the historic events of the first owner of the historic home, Colonel John Tipton.² When efforts to put on a theatrical play eventually failed, Association members turned to the development of a reenactment because reenactments did not fall under the same restrictions as plays and so allowed the Association to host their reenactment to honor the Tipton family. In 1983 a reenactment of "The Battle of the Lost State of Franklin" included what the Association had wished of the theatrical play, a battle scenario to honor the

¹ Earl Hobson Smith, *The Lost State of Franklin*, 1971, Tipton-Haynes Historical Association Records, Series VII – D, Box 5, Folder 2, Mary Hardin McCown Archives, Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site, Johnson City, TN.

² Ibid.

Tipton family and their actions that helped create Tennessee. The reenactment became part of the site's *Farm Festival* until the event was canceled in the early 2000s.³

Events such as the *Farm Festival* and *The Lost State of Franklin: A Frontier Chronicle* reflected how the Association chose to interpret solely the Tipton family.⁴ The Association made no effort to include the Haynes family in these events or create a separate event to educate the public about the Haynes family. Not until 1987, sixteen years after opening to the public, did an event to honor the Haynes family get created. A Civil War reenactment was held at the site to tap the public's growing interest in the American Civil War and to meet the Association's growing desire to interpret more of the Haynes family history.⁵

These two events planned and enacted by Tipton-Haynes resemble similar events at other historic sites that chose only to represent the best parts of their sites. In *House on Diamond Hill a Cherokee Plantation Story*, Tiya Miles discussed how events and tours at Chief Vann home elevated the Vann family to a high status by not interpreting the full history of the site. Site directors chose not to interpret the brutality of James Vann towards the family or slaves, eliminating much of their history through choice. Through their events, Tipton-Haynes also eliminated much of their history by solely interpreting one of the site's owners and elevating the Tipton family to a higher status within the interpretation.

³ "The Tipton-Haynes Historical Farm Festival," *Johnson City Press-Chronicle*, August 6, 1983, Tipton-Haynes Historical Association Records, Series VII-A, Box 1, Folder 22, Mary Hardin McCown Archives, Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site, Johnson City, TN.

⁴ Earl Hobson Smith, *The Lost State of Franklin*, 1971, Tipton-Haynes Historical Association Records, Series VII – D, Box 5, Folder 2, Mary Hardin McCown Archives, Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site, Johnson City, TN.

⁵ "Civil War Breaks Out at Tipton-Haynes," *Herald and Tribune*, May 6, 1987, Tipton-Haynes Historical Association Records, Series VII-A, Box 2, Folder 1, Mary Hardin McCown Archives, Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site, Johnson City, TN.

Interpretation is a choice made by tour guides, associations, trustees, staff, docents, and directors of historic sites who must anticipate their audiences' desires and understand their interests to make a connection between a site's history and its visitors. The success of interpretation also depends on the visitor, of course, but without a commitment to an accurate presentation of the past and the use of successful, engaging interpretive strategies that allow visitors to make connections to a site's relevance and vitality, the possibility of a precise interpretation will diminish. At the same time, as events at Tipton-Haynes reflect, choices made by stakeholders can cause large, unexplained gaps in the history presented to the public. Why did the leadership guiding Tipton-Haynes through its first several decades promote the story of one family over others, and what were the implications of their choice? What factors aided the Association in altering its interpretation to become more inclusive of all the site's history and historical inhabitants?

The history of the Tipton-Haynes site reveals that a number of families inhabited the land that became the historic site, all of which have significant stories to be interpreted and not forgotten or overlooked. The Association's choice to interpret solely one family at the creation of the historic site impacted the interpretation of the site for years to follow. Located in Johnson City, Tennessee, Tipton-Haynes has a long history, from prehistoric creatures that lived in the site's limestone cave, such as dire wolves and Native Americans that moved through the region on hunting parties, to the modern day.

Colonel John Tipton was born in Maryland in 1730 and moved with his family as a young man to the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia around 1750.⁶ This is when he married Mary Butler and began his distinguished political career. Colonel Tipton participated in Lord Dunmore's War (1774), the Revolutionary War (1776-1783), the Fifth Virginia Convention, and

⁶ Ervin Charles Tipton, *We Tipton and Our Kin* (San Rafael, California, Ervin Charles Tipton, 1975), 555.

the General Assembly (1776-1781).⁷ In 1776, his wife, Mary passed away during the birth of their ninth son, who survived, and one year later Tipton married Martha Denton Moore.⁸ In 1784 Colonel John Tipton, along with many other white settlers, expanded their interests into the western region of North Carolina, while also establishing permanent residence on what would become the Tipton-Haynes property.⁹ Also, in 1784 Tipton finished construction on his 25'x 30' log cabin with a loft for a second story.¹⁰ The same year that Colonel Tipton finished his cabin, many inhabitants of the westernmost counties of North Carolina began to plea for a new state, called Franklin, and their own governing body.¹¹ This dispute quickly erupted the region into sides, in which Colonel Tipton chose to remain loyal to North Carolina. Colonel Tipton quickly became a major opponent to Franklin, which caused tension between himself and the proclaimed governor of the proposed state, John Sevier. This tension led to a battle on the very grounds of Colonel Tipton's home from February 27 to February 29, 1788.¹² For many more years, Tipton continued to serve his constituents in many different capacities, but retired from public life in 1799 and returned to his home where he raised horses and operated his farm.¹³ He died in August of 1813.¹⁴

⁷ Ibid., 554.

⁸ Ibid., 553

⁹ Ibid., 554.

¹⁰ Ibid.

¹¹ Samuel Cole Williams, *History of the Lost State of Franklin* (Johnson City, TN, The Over Mountain Press, 1933), 5.

¹² Ibid., 198-208.

¹³ Ervin Charles Tipton, *We Tipton and Our Kin* (San Rafael, California, Ervin Charles Tipton, 1975), 570.

¹⁴ Ibid., 553.

After his father's death, John Tipton, Jr., inherited the property. He was born in Virginia on April 21, 1767, and moved with his father to Tennessee in 1784.¹⁵ In 1791, Tipton Jr. returned to Virginia to marry Elizabeth Snapp, whose family owned substantial property in Blountville, Tennessee.¹⁶ Six years after their marriage, Tipton Jr., and Elizabeth moved to Blountville where he became one of the largest land owners of the town.¹⁷ His home still stands and is considered to be the second oldest structure in Blountville. Within the decade following his father's death, Tipton, Jr. and his family moved into his father's cabin and restructured it into a Federal-style farmhouse.

As was his father before him, John Tipton, Jr. became heavily active in politics. From 1803 to 1815 voters elected him to the Tennessee House of Representatives, during which he served as House speaker from 1807 to 1809.¹⁸ He then was elected as the Tennessee Senator for Sullivan County in 1817-1819.¹⁹ Tipton, Jr. missed several years of public life and returned to the General Assembly in 1831, but before he could formally take his seat, he passed away due to unknown causes in Nashville, TN on October 8, 1831.²⁰

Six years after the passing of John Tipton, Jr. his heirs sold the home to David and Rhoda Haynes who gave the farm to their son, Landon Carter Haynes, as a wedding gift when he married Eleanor Powell. Born in Carter County, Tennessee, on December 2, 1816, Landon

¹⁵ Last Will and Testament, John Tipton Jr., October 3, 1831, *Tennessee Probate Court Books, 1795-1927, Washington County Wills, 1779-1858, Vol. 1* (n.p., Washington County, TN, 1831), 244.

¹⁶ Evelyn Thompson, *The Tipton Family* (Tipton Family Association of America), 219.

¹⁷ *Ibid.*, 224.

¹⁸ Robert H. White, *Messages of the Governors of Tennessee 1796-1821* (Nashville, TN, Tennessee Historical Commission, 1952), 734-737.

¹⁹ *Ibid.*

²⁰ Last Will and Testament, John Tipton Jr., October 3, 1831, *Tennessee Probate Court Books, 1795-1927, Washington County Wills, 1779-1858, Vol. 1* (n.p., Washington County, TN, 1831), 244.

Carter Haynes graduated from Washington College in 1838 and was admitted to the Tennessee Bar Association in 1840.²¹ From 1841 to 1846 Haynes served as editor of the *Tennessee Sentinel*, a Jonesborough newspaper.²² He entered public life when elected to the Tennessee House in the 26th General Assembly (1846-1848), then Tennessee Senate for the 27th Assembly (1848-1850) and elected as House Speaker in the 28th Assembly (1850-1852).²³ This was the end of his public career until the American Civil War.

In 1861 Tennessee followed the other southern states and seceded from the Union where Haynes was elected as one of two Tennessee Confederate senators.²⁴ While he held this position throughout the Civil War from 1862-1865, the Haynes family moved to Knoxville, Tennessee, and then to Wytheville, Virginia, during the war to avoid advancing federal troops.²⁵ Haynes, along with other Confederate officials, was captured in Statesville, North Carolina, in Spring of 1865, but Haynes was not officially pardoned until June 6, 1866, by President Andrew Johnson.²⁶

In February, 1866, Haynes decided to move back to Tennessee, but fearful of retribution from Unionist sympathizers in East Tennessee and unable to return home because his home had

²¹ James W. Bellamy, "The Political Career of Landon Carter Haynes," (Master's thesis, The University of Tennessee, 1952), 10-11.

²² Gertrude B. Toncray, "Landon Carter Haynes: Silver-Tongued Orator of the South," *The United Daughters of the Confederacy Magazine* (May 1987): 66-67.

²³ Robert M. McBride and Dan M. McBride, *Biographical Directory of the Tennessee General Assembly: Volume 1 1796-1861* (Nashville, TN, Tennessee State Library and Archives, 1975), 348-349.

²⁴ McBride, 348-49; Bellamy, 64.

²⁵ *The War of the Rebellion: A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and the Confederate Armies*, Tipton-Haynes Civil War Exhibit Collection, Box 3, Folder 26, Mary Hardin McCown Archives, Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site, Johnson City, Tennessee.

²⁶ Governor William W. Holden to President Andrew Johnson, August 9, 1865, Tipton-Haynes Civil War Exhibit Collection, Box 2, Folder 18, Mary Hardin McCown Archives, Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site, Johnson City, TN.

been sold at auction to John Branner in July, 1864, for back taxes, Haynes moved his family to Memphis, Tennessee.²⁷ After settling in the city, Landon Carter Haynes opened the law office Haynes, Heath, Lewis, and Lee Attorneys at Law.²⁸ Then on February 17, 1875, Haynes died from a stroke at his home in Memphis.²⁹

John Branner, who had gained ownership of the Tipton-Haynes property at auction, sold the home in Johnson City back to the Haynes family, but then once again it was lost to pay taxes.³⁰ The property was then acquired by John White in 1871 and rented to Sarah Simerly.³¹ Simerly purchased the home from White on May 1, 1882, along with 251 acres surrounding the home.³² Sarah was the niece of Landon Carter Haynes and lived in the home until her death in 1935. Her two sons, Samuel and Lawson Simerly, inherited the home and lived there until their passing in 1962.³³ With their passing the home came under the control of the Tennessee Historical Commission. The site is partially funded today by the Tennessee State government, the Tennessee Historical Commission, and is operated on a daily basis by the Tipton-Haynes Historical Association, Inc.

²⁷ Robert Haynes from L.C. Haynes Jr., Haynes Family Collection, Series III, Box 6, Folder 17, Mary Hardin McCown Archives, Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site Johnson City, TN.

²⁸ Ibid.

²⁹ Landon Carter Haynes, Memphis Register of Deaths, Shelby County Register of Deeds, 244, 1875. <https://register.shelby.tn.us/imgView.php?imgtype=pdf&id=164521875021758>.

³⁰ Deed of Sale, John R. Branner to Robert Haynes, November 22, 1867, Tipton-Haynes Historical Association Records, Series 1, Box 1, Folder 6, Mary Hardin McCown Archives, Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site, Johnson City, TN.

³¹ Deed of Sale, Chancery Court to John White, February 25, 1871, Tipton-Haynes Historical Association Records, Series 1, Box 1, Folder 20, Mary Hardin McCown Archives, Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site, Johnson City, TN.

³² Deed of Sale, John White to Sarah Lavinia Gifford Simerly, May 1, 1882, Tipton-Haynes Historical Association Records, Series 1, Box 1, Folder 7, Mary Hardin McCown Archives, Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site, Johnson City, TN.

³³ Samuel Simerly, November 21, 1962, Lawson Simerly, November 16, 1962, Graves Marker, Tipton-Haynes Cemetery, Johnson City, Washington County, Tennessee.

Several important works have contributed to improve the knowledge of the Tipton, Haynes, and Simerly families. Works such as *We Tipton and Our Kin* and *Tipton The First Five American Generations* are two works that elaborate on the history of Tipton-Haynes while also including detailed stories of the Tipton family's experiences. *We Tipton and Our Kin* written by Ervin Charles Tipton is a genealogical work that traces hundreds of thousands of descendants of the Tipton family across the United States.³⁴ It includes stories of the main family line as they moved from England to America and where they settled. Researching these stories, one can understand how the Tipton family was able to gain such prominence in the early years of the American government and the ability to acquire the mass amount of land holding within the family. Although many of the stories are true, some have been disproven as time progressed and further research was completed. *Tipton The First Five American Generations*, written by Charles D. Tipton, is also a genealogical work that traces the descendants of the Tipton family.³⁵ However, it stops at the fifth generation after the family crossed the sea to the new world. Just as in the previous work, this book used the family lore to explain the generations and their livelihoods. Many of the early interpretations of the Tipton family were based off of these works. Using these, the site was able to build their tours and events off of the historical facts that were presented and backed through the authors research. These interpretations have been altered from the Association's original views as time progressed and research has presented new evidence, while also the interpretations from these works have changed due to public interest. These works were the basis of the site's early interpretation, but also have been used to build the lineage of the

³⁴ Ervin Charles Tipton, *We Tipton and Our Kin* (San Rafael, California, Ervin Charles Tipton, 1975), 553.

³⁵ Charles D. Tipton, *Tipton: The First Five American Generations* (Self-Published, Garland TX, 1998), 125-141.

families. The genealogical aspects of the work have aided Tipton-Haynes in learning of the expansion of the Tipton family across the nation.

In 1970, a year prior to the site's opening, two articles were released in the *Tennessee Historical Quarterly* called "A Landmark of East Tennessee" by Dennis T. Lawson and "The Later Years" by John J. Baratte.³⁶ Lawson's work was based from the first historic interpretation of the site that focused on the Tipton family and their involvement in the Lost State of Franklin, while also asserting that all the buildings on the site were built by Colonel John Tipton.³⁷ The work traversed all years of the site, from the inhabitation of the limestone cave in prehistoric days to the period of the Haynes family residence, but began and ended the Haynes portion with his service in the Civil War and a brief section on his law career.³⁸ *The Later Years*, written on the Association, referenced how the Association formed and began work on restoring the site. Baratte's work gave insight into the early board and interpretation of the site, representing how they chose which eras of the site's history to interpret. These works together gave the first written interpretation of the site and its buildings, but also gave perspective as to how drastically the interpretation of the site has changed overtime. These articles, mixed with other works on the tours and interpretation of the site, represent the drastic alterations to interpretation that Tipton-Haynes has faced throughout its existence as a historic site.

Messages of the Governor of Tennessee Volume 1 and 2, Washington County, Tennessee Deeds, Volume 1 and 2, and History of Washington County Tennessee 1988 gave insight into the

³⁶ Dennis T. Lawson, "A Landmark of East Tennessee," *Tennessee Historical Quarterly*, 39 (Summer 1970): 105-124; John J. Baratte, "The Later Years," *Tennessee Historical Quarterly*, 39 (Summer 1970): 125-129.

³⁷ Dennis T. Lawson, "A Landmark of East Tennessee," *Tennessee Historical Quarterly*, 39 (Summer 1970): 107-115.

³⁸ *Ibid.*, 117-120.

inhabitants of the region throughout the 1700s and the 1800s.³⁹ Also, these works recorded political positions and land purchases, while including historical annotations of the region and the people settled within. Each of these works have their own value as they pertain to the Tipton family's settlement of vast tracks of land, along with how they were quickly elected by the public for political offices. The Tennessee Deed volumes consist of records pertaining to the acquisition of land in the East Tennessee region. Though the works were not compiled until 1991 and 1993 the records held within the Register of Deeds offices of the surrounding counties of the Tipton-Haynes site aided the early Association in the creation of the site tour and the interpretation of Colonel John Tipton and his status in the community. After the creation of the works, the site has been able to decipher more information of the Tipton family and their land holdings at the time, while also discovering new information about their public life, all aiding in the development of information and alterations of the site's history.⁴⁰

The *Messages of the Governor of Tennessee Volume 1 and 2* gave insight into how the Tipton family used their political seats for the betterment of their constituencies, while also using the positions to push their political views.⁴¹ The site has used these records to learn what positions the family members held, their beliefs, and how they used them throughout their service, while also incorporating this information into the interpretation of the site. As research continues into historic documents, the history of the site is altered to reflect the historical evidence. Alterations of the site's history in this manner can be seen throughout the site's tours

³⁹ Robert H. White, *Messages of the Governors of Tennessee 1796-1821 Volume 1* (Nashville, TN, Tennessee Historical Commission, 1952), 734-737; *History of Washington County Tennessee 1988* (Johnson City, Watauga Association of Genealogists – Upper East Tennessee, 1988), 24.

⁴⁰ Loraine Rea, *Washington County, Tennessee Deeds, 1775-1800* (Greenville, South Carolina, Southern Historical Press, Inc. 1991), 130, 139, 151.

⁴¹ Robert H. White, *Messages of the Governors of Tennessee, 1796-1821 Volume 1* (Nashville, TN, Tennessee Historical Commission, 1952), 734-737.

and events, but not as prevalent as other larger influences causing revision to the site's interpretation.

The work, *History of Washington County Tennessee 1988*, represents a large amount of Washington County, Tennessee's history, including information on the Tipton-Haynes site.⁴² The work used the site's early interpretation to explain the site and its vital history within the historical events of the county. This information was useful for understanding the site's earlier forms of interpretation. Although the information within this book is small, it is significant in understanding how many of the stories of the site and its history were being told in the past as well as in the present. This work also is a representation of how the Haynes family was not reviewed by the Tipton-Haynes Site or the County as Landon Carter Haynes is only mentioned in the Civil War section as a confederate senator, and his ownership of the home.⁴³ He received only a few sentences mentioning his law office and changes to the site. However, the Tipton family is well represented throughout the work.

The *History of the Lost State of Franklin*, written by Samuel Cole Williams, is another excellent source of material and early interpretation of the site's history through the expansion and downfall of the Franklin movement.⁴⁴ This work encompasses the site's history through the buildup, existence, and the end of the Franklin movement. By representing this history, Williams represents the Tipton family as a large reason for the movement collapsing, and discusses the end of the movement with the battle on Tipton's property.⁴⁵ The work is an extensive compilation of

⁴² *History of Washington County Tennessee 1988* (Johnson City, Watauga Association of Genealogists – Upper East Tennessee, 1988), 158.

⁴³ *Ibid.*, 32-33.

⁴⁴ Samuel Cole Williams, *History of the Lost State of Franklin* (Johnson City, TN, The Over Mountain Press, 1933), 198-209.

⁴⁵ *Ibid.*, 198-209.

research on the movement and the people involved within, allowing for a detailed understanding of the site's early history. Much of the site's interpretation of the State of Franklin was taken from this work and added to the site's historical influence and is still included in the site's interpretation today as William's book is still a leading work on the subject. As the site's history was solely interpreted on the Tipton family, this work was crucial to the site's interpretation as it aided in the advancement of the Tipton families' history.

While the Tipton family has had a significant amount of secondary works written on the history of their family, the same cannot be said for the Haynes family or the Simerly family. A few works that aided the research into the Haynes family had been written before the creation of the Association but were not included into the research or interpretation of the site for decades. One of which is, "The Political Career of Landon Carter Haynes," a master's thesis by James Bellamy.⁴⁶

Written in 1952, *The Political Career of Landon Carter Haynes*, is a master's thesis for the University of Tennessee. This thesis is the first major work that can be found on Landon Carter Haynes and consists of many new avenues of interest into his life and achievements. Bellamy records much of Haynes' life from his birth through his death in Memphis, Tennessee, but also explains the many career paths that Haynes chose to pursue in his lifetime.⁴⁷ With the work having been completed years before the site was opened to the public, shows that there were works for the Association to use in research for information on the Haynes family. Was it by choice that they only interpreted the Tipton family? The Association for many years was comprised of only Tipton descendants who possibly wished to interpret just their family and did

⁴⁶ James W. Bellamy, "The Political Career of Landon Carter Haynes," (Master's thesis, The University of Tennessee, 1952), I-II.

⁴⁷ Ibid., 10, 13, 18, 27, 30, 34, 44, 64.

not desire to research into a family who's only connection was through the home. It was not until the 1990s that this information began to alter the interpretation of the site to represent a full history of the site's pastime.

For the Descendants of Judge Hal H. Haynes, by Shirley Haynes Staley, is a lineage constructed around Judge Haynes that records back to George Haynes (1757-1836).⁴⁸ This work, completed around the opening of Tipton-Haynes, could have been used to understand and interpret the history of the Haynes family in the beginnings of the Association. It is unclear when the Association received this book due to no record of it being received by the site. However, the work does traverse the site's historical figures and their lives, while also instilling evidence of the Haynes family at the Tipton-Haynes home. This work, much like the previous work, could have greatly increased the Association's knowledge of the Haynes family, but possibly Association members decided to ignore it.

Although emerging research over decades should have led the Association to adopt additions to the site's interpretation, members instead chose to emphasize the Tipton family, interpreting the family in a favorable light and disregarding contradictory information.⁴⁹ Even the lack of works produced on the Haynes family reflects the attention that had been given to the Tipton family. Several recent scholarly works offer approaches for thinking about how interpretation at historic house museums is formed and evolves, explaining in part the significance of absences and the forces that create them.

The *Anarchist Guide to Historic House Museums*, written by Franklin D. Vagnone and Deborah E. Ryan, suggests what is needed for historic house museums to remain relevant in this

⁴⁸ Shirley Haynes Staley, *For the Descendants of Judge Hal H. Haynes* (Self-Published, 1970), 9-15.

⁴⁹ Letter from Field Representative of the THC Dennis T. Lawson to Mary Hardin McCown, September 27, 1965, Mary Hardin McCown Collection, Box 7 Folder 13, Mary Hardin McCown Archives, Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site Johnson City TN.

ever-changing world.⁵⁰ Through this work the authors explain steps that house museums can take to alter their histories and remain relevant with the public, all while keeping the history factual but interpreting it differently.⁵¹ They also explain different measures a house museum can undertake to raise financial assistance to remain open for the foreseeable future. Through these goals, the authors hope to help save as many museums across the nation as they can. Throughout the work, the authors suggest alternative or nontraditional ways of interaction with and engaging visitors on tours, allowing them to touch and use items in order to help incorporate visitors into the time period interpreted.⁵² This work aids the understanding that without change to a historic site the future could be unknown. Using this work for the betterment of Tipton-Haynes can show how the site had enacted many similar aspirations before the book was released.

The House on Diamond Hill: A Cherokee Plantation Story, gives great detail into the history of the Chief Vann Home State Historic Site and its site's historical interpretation.⁵³ The Vann family home has been preserved by the Georgia Historical Commission for over fifty years.⁵⁴ However, the author Tiya Miles, felt that some of the site's history had been neglected or forgotten. She undertook the research to discover what was not being interpreted by the historic site and made it visible to the visitors of the site. Through this research she became an external influence on the historic site and helped to alter the histories interpreted. In the conclusion of her work she explains how the site was opening a slave exhibit and explaining the faults of a once

⁵⁰ Franklin D. Vagnone and Deborah E. Ryan, *Anarchist's Guide to Historic House Museums* (Walnut Creek, California: Left Coast Press, 2016), 33-38.

⁵¹ *Ibid.*, 41-45.

⁵² *Ibid.*, 120-127.

⁵³ Tiya Miles, *The House on Diamond Hill: A Cherokee Plantation Story* (Chapel Hill, NC: The University of North Carolina Press, 2010), 1-26.

⁵⁴ *Ibid.*, 1.

immaculate family.⁵⁵ Throughout her work, Miles also represented how visitors did not know the history and the site chose only to speak of the good parts of their history. Through her work she explained how it was imperative to mention all history, good and bad alike. This became relevant to Tipton-Haynes as the Association chose to mask much of the site's dreadful history and helped discover why historic sites, like Tipton-Haynes, chose to hide their harsher history.

Sacred Grounds: Americans and Their Battle Fields and *Slavery and Public History* describe historic sites across America and how each have faced hardships to remain relevant while providing accurate interpretations for their visitors.⁵⁶ Both works represent how internal influences, such as staff changes and placement of monuments, and external influence, such as historians and community members' beliefs about sites, altered a sites interpretation or a site name to appease the public. In *Sacred Grounds: Americans and Their Battle Fields*, Edward Linenthal traverses five critical moments in American history and how these events altered the path of the nation, but also discussed how the people of today interpret and preserve these sites' histories.⁵⁷ Using Lexington and Concord, the Alamo, and other sites as example, Linenthal explains and interprets each site's history to discover the relevance to current visitors and how the interpretation is received. By doing this he obtained a perspective on how visitors visualize the site and how their opinions of the site can alter the site's interpretation in their minds. He also used these influences to show how a collection of people with the same vision can alter a site's interpretation and even a site's name if preferred by the public. This work represented how external influences on historic sites can cause minor and drastic changes, causing a site to alter

⁵⁵ Ibid., 191-193.

⁵⁶ Edward Tabor Linenthal, *Sacred Grounds: Americans and Their Battlefields* (Chicago, Illinois: University of Illinois Press, 1993), 1-7.

⁵⁷ Ibid., 1-6.

its historical value forever. Using this work, one can grasp the challenges historic sites are faced with in the choice to alter their histories or challenge a community's beliefs.

Slavery and Public History, edited by James O. Horton and Lois E. Horton, is another work that challenges historic sites by examining how common external influences have shaped treatments of race and slavery.⁵⁸ Historic sites throughout the South have faced choices about how to integrate or mask African-American histories.⁵⁹ Like many of the sites considered in *Slavery and Public History*, Tipton-Haynes was challenged to decide how to include African-American history, connecting the site's interpretation to revised understandings of the nation's history. The work represented how one movement can affect hundreds of locations.

Linenthal and the Horton's works aid in the battle for historic sites across the nation to remain relevant and also help to explain how historic sites are challenged every year by common beliefs. These authors help to show how easily history can be rewritten or suppressed to appease one group of people. Influence on interpretation can harm a site just as easily as it can improve a site, and through these works both outcomes can be seen. These works are of great influence to future research into the social climate of history and just how often historical events and locations are forced to defend themselves and strive to educate the common folk on what actually happened, while also trying to remain relevant in everyday life.

Works such as *The New History in an Old Museum* and *Domesticating History: The Political Origins of America's House Museums* examine specific sites across the nation, discussing their beginnings, struggles, and how they are represented today. In *The New History in an Old Museum*, the authors Richard Handler and Eric Gable research one of the United

⁵⁸ James Oliver Horton, Lois E. Horton, *Slavery and Public History: The Tough Stuff of American Memory* (New York, New York: The New Press, 2006), vii-xiv.

⁵⁹ *Ibid.*, vii-xiv.

States' most recognizable first-person interpreted sites, Colonial Williamsburg. This work is dedicated to understanding the alterations in interpretation and historical expansion of Williamsburg, one of the nation's most significant historical attractions.⁶⁰ The authors traverse Williamsburg's past to help explain how external influence on the site helped alter the site's history to keep patrons visiting the site. World War II, for example, led to creation of an interpretation that emphasized patriotism and persisted into the Cold War decades.⁶¹ The authors also show how internal influence through board member preferences and interests changed the site and how the history of the site was represented to the public.⁶² By covering many of the site's changes in a single work, Handler and Gable reveal how even the largest historic sites must continually alter their interpretation to remain relevant.

As Williamsburg faced alterations by its governing board, other historic sites were forced to change as well when new boards took over. *Domesticating History*, written by Patricia West, traverses some of the nation's most recognizable homes and their origins as house museums.⁶³ She used these homes to show how each site's main protectors were women's groups that sought to preserve America's past even during the approach of the American Civil War.⁶⁴ The author explains how each group sought to protect each site but needed financial assistance from their husbands' political connections to do so. This began the change as men began to move into positions of power and pushed the women who had fought so hard for these sites into secretarial

⁶⁰ Richard Handler and Eric Gable, *The New History in an Old Museum: Creating the Past at Colonial Williamsburg* (Durham, North Carolina: Duke University Press, 1997), 3-6.

⁶¹ *Ibid.*, 63-65.

⁶² *Ibid.*, 36-37.

⁶³ Patricia West, *Domesticating History: The Political Origins of America's House Museums* (Washington D.C.: Smithsonian Institution Press, 1999), xi-xiii.

⁶⁴ *Ibid.*, 39-40.

jobs.⁶⁵ Changes in leadership can alter a site's interpretation and outreach, and just as in West's case studies, Tipton-Haynes experienced leadership changes of this kind that impacted both funding and visitation. Leadership, whether male or female, must maintain what works for sites and only alter what is necessary to remain relevant to the public. West noted how many historic sites were started by women for their community. Also, her research showed how interpretation was shaped by women and then changed by the influence of men as they entered the management for each location.

Similar to these last two works is *History's Memory: Writing America's Past 1880-1980*, by Ellen Fitzpatrick. Fitzpatrick discussed how many generations of historians interpret history in general, not historic sites, events, or locations.⁶⁶ She categorized these historians into historical fields of old, new, radical, and progressive and used these groups of historians to explain the advancement and alterations to history through memory.⁶⁷ Using these categories, she explained how each new generation of scholars interprets history through their own understanding branching from their mentors and other influences, such as their own personal beliefs. This created an evolution of history that represents how many years of interpretation can drastically change the relevance and even the meaning of the event. Through this work an understanding of historical interpretative alteration can be grasped as time progressed at Tipton-Haynes with Associations and staff changes causing new influences on the site's history, causing the interpretation to change overtime. This can be seen as new directors take over Tipton-Haynes

⁶⁵ Ibid, 49-50.

⁶⁶ Ellen Fitzpatrick, *History's Memory: Writing America's Pastime 1880-1980* (Cambridge, Massachusetts: Harvard University Press, 2002), 1-12.

⁶⁷ Ibid, 1.

and began representing new portions of the sites history and alter the site's tours for this new interpretation.

In *Mystic Chords of Memory*, Michael Kamen discussed the use of tradition, myth, and memory in the exploration of historical understanding.⁶⁸ Kamen used many examples from authors, artists, collectors, historians, and many other custodians of history to help explain how American culture interprets history regionally and nationally.⁶⁹ Like Fitzpatrick, Kamen asserts that each new generation of historians interprets history in their own way, differing from their mentors, but can also be influenced by their location within the nation. Kamen used location of regional and national history to explain how history is presented and interpreted through the addition of myth, tradition, and memory giving insight into how people incorporate these into their understandings of history.⁷⁰

Inclusion of memory, tradition and myth can also be seen through other works such as *Slavery and Public History* and sites like Tipton-Haynes as individuals defend regional histories against national interpretations. Struggles of this nature are well represented in Tipton-Haynes' past, because individuals overseeing interpretation at the site chose to accept and ignore portions of the site's history. Works like those of Fitzpatrick and Kamen explains, in part, how and why the Association of Tipton-Haynes chose to disregard the past.

Additions of myth, tradition, and memory into historical studies can cause controversy over what was remembered versus what had been forgotten or left untold. Edited by Joan Tumblety, *Memory and History: Understanding Memory as Source and Subject*, examines the

⁶⁸ Michael Kamen, *Mystic Chords of Memory: The Transformation of Tradition in American Culture* (New York, New York: Alfred A. Knopf, Inc, 1991), 3-16.

⁶⁹ *Ibid*, 375-377.

⁷⁰ *Ibid*, 25-32.

struggle that memory has faced to become a creditable subject of historical study in the overarching historical field.⁷¹ She used memory to help explain how individual and group memory recall events from the past whether those remembering were alive or if the story had been passed down by generations before. Doing this she represented how memory and tradition were remembered through decisions made in direct response to the event in question. She used collective and individual memories of the same event to gauge what happened in order to show individual and collective memory, if properly used, be used to produce reliable and accurate portrayals of specific events. Her work exposed how individual perspectives and recollections of both historic site staff and site shape perceptions of tours, events, and interpretation. The original board of the Tipton-Haynes Association chose to interpret Tipton history for the site as it had been passed down to some board members from their families. It does not answer why they chose to ignore the site's other historic owners but does provide an avenue for understanding the site's beginnings.

As people visit historic sites and learn their histories, interpretation can change. As each person comes into contact with history their understanding and recollection of the site's events will not be remembered as they were told. Alterations of interpretation such as this are commonplace, but as many of these previous works have stated, larger more influential alteration can cause interpretation to be changed drastically forever. It is through these alterations that one can grasp how historic sites have had to navigate their commitment to accuracy while remaining an inviting destination for visitors. Without necessary alterations a historic site could become obsolete and be forced to close. Many of these sources explain how alterations to a site's interpretation also allows for a historical interpretation to grow and expand. Further research and

⁷¹ Joan Tumblety, *Memory and History: Understanding Memory as Source and Subject* (New York: Routledge, 2013), 1-16.

exploration can always change the perception of historical events but can also change a site's history for the better. In the last several decades, for instance, stakeholders at Tipton-Haynes have done much to expand the inclusiveness of the site and its interpretation. The greater inclusion of information about the Haynes family and Simerly family made possible the expansion of information on slaves, women, children, the environment, and daily life.

The work to create and maintain the Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site has left a significant record that reveals much about the changing interpretation of the site and evolving appreciation of its historical significance. Tipton-Haynes, as many other historic sites across the nation, have faced alterations through internal and external influences on their interpretations to expand and include more of each site's history, whether good or bad, such as the inclusion of slavery. Internal influences on Tipton-Haynes are stimuli that demand a choice be made by staff, docents, or Association members to the site and/or the interpretation. Many internal influences upon the Tipton-Haynes historic site have allowed for alterations to its interpretation and created a greater inclusiveness to its tour by expanding its connectivity to its visitors. External influences on Tipton-Haynes are stimuli that cause alterations in physical or historical processes by entities disassociated with the historic site. An outside source to Tipton-Haynes is the community that surrounds the site and the visitors to the site, both of which play a great role in the expansion and alterations to the interpretation. Interest in the site allows it to remain important to the community and expand the community's education of the site's, regions, and State's history. This connectiveness of external influences on Tipton-Haynes remain vital to the relevance of the site and its connections to the descendants of the site's families, its visitors, and the history itself.

A few brief examples of internal influences for Tipton-Haynes consist of alterations from the Association, staff, and continued research, while external influences consist of community

involvement, donations to the site, insuring vitality of the site, and connectivity of the site. Several authors have discussed many of these influences on historic sites across the nation including Patricia West in her work *Domesticating History: The Political Origins of America's House Museums*. West discussed the nature of internal influences through the creation of house museums. Influences, such as the many women's groups that organized and orchestrated the creation of several sites, also established each site's interpretation.⁷² This can also be seen through the events of Tipton-Haynes, as a group of women and Tipton descendants came together to create the Tipton-Haynes Historical Association Inc. to operate the site. These descendants established the interpretation of the site but made a choice of solely interpreting one family of the historic home. These influences are just a few examples of the many that altered the Tipton-Haynes site and its interpretation, over time allowing for greater inclusivity of the site's history and a greater understanding of all the site's historic owners. However, other forms of influence, such as the surrounding community of historic sites, play other roles in the creation and adaptation to historical interpretations.

An example of an internal and an external influence can be seen through choices made in maintaining the vitality of a site and its connection to its visitors. If visitors do not enjoy their experience at a site, then they can choose to leave without returning or leave criticisms of the site. This becomes an internal issue for association members, directors, and staff because they must discover what the disconnect is or was between the visitor and the site. As Vagnone and Ryan in *Anarchist Guide to Historic House Museums*, the connection made between a site and its visitors is crucial to maintaining a site's vitality, its relation to the community, and its ability to

⁷² Patricia West, *Domesticating History: The Political Origins of America's House Museums* (Washington D.C.: Smithsonian Institution Press, 1999), 39-40.

link site interpretation to visitor interests. and its historical interpretation.⁷³ Internal decisions must be made to create, continue, and expand these connections to ensure a site remains open. Tipton-Haynes, long before the work by Vagnone and Ryan was published, enacted many of their suggestions, such as touch rooms, and access to prohibited areas, and a site tour to provide a more connective and inclusive feel. A mix of internal and external influences led to a more enjoyable tour for visitors that involved physical interactions with material culture, the built environment, and landscape and made for a more personal connection to the site's history.

Tipton-Haynes has had to face many of the challenges described by scholars and will continue to be challenged as long as the site remains open. Understanding how and why the site's presentation of the past changed over times explains how the site has progressed from its original to its current interpretation and what forces provoked the change. As researchers explored the history of the families who owned the Tipton-Haynes property, their work exposed evidence that resulted in a more accurate and comprehensive interpretation while also allowing the site to connect to its visitors in a more influential way. Influence, whether internal factors or external factors, continually alters a historic site's interpretation, increasing its vitality and connectivity to a site's visitors. This aids sites in their goals of educating the public about each location's history, while also educating visitors about the historical value of the site to the community and region. Tipton-Haynes, through many of the struggles illustrated within these works and the site's history, embraced many of these influences and altered the site's interpretation from its original one-sided view. Tipton-Haynes continues this struggle as they strive to educate the public no longer solely on the Tipton family, but on all of the site's historical intricacies. This can be seen as Tipton-Haynes advanced the site histories through the

⁷³ Franklin D. Vagnone and Deborah E. Ryan, *Anarchist Guide to Historic House Museums* (Walnut Creek, California: Left Coast Press, 2016), 95-97

creation of new tours and events interpreting more of the historical events while including both the Haynes and Simerly family into the interpretation with the Tipton family.

Many internal and external factors played a role in the expansion of the Tipton-Haynes interpretation to its current rendition. Throughout the site's existence many of these influences have tried to change the site physically and historically. Internal and external forces on Tipton-Haynes have given a greater interpretation, which incorporates a more complete account of the site's history allowing for a greater inclusivity of diversity, historical actors and relevance of the site and its interpretation. Most of these influences helped to advance the site's interests and interpretation to become more inclusive and factual as new information was discovered or as community members made recommendations, but some internal and external influences have also attempted to turn the site to its previous stages of interpretation. Not all alterations to a site are in the best interest and can cause a disconnect between the site, its visitors, its staff, and its Association. These connections remain vital in the existence of a historic site, such as Tipton-Haynes, as without even one of these connections it will become difficult or impossible for a site to remain open and educate the public on the importance of its history to the community, region, state, or nation.

By interpreting only a part of their site's history through the first decades of Tipton-Haynes' existence as a preserved historic site, the members of the Tipton-Haynes Historical Association, site directors, and staff limited the interpretation of the site to a narrow focus. While the current history of the site reflects the breadth and complexity of the site's past, not until the late 1980s and early 1990s did interpretation at the site embrace inclusivity and open opportunities for reaching previously ignored community groups. Internal forces such as the board of trustees and staff altered the site's interpretation through their opinions and influence on

the site while external forces such as the general public and other state agencies altered the path of the site's interpretation through desire and interest. Through alterations to the site's history, Tipton-Haynes' interpretation has become more inclusive, expanding coverage of all of the site's inhabitants and their life experiences.

Over decades, interpretation at Tipton-Haynes changed drastically from the interpretation presented at the site's inception. Many of the original Association members were descendants of the Tipton family and felt that their heritage needed to be preserved over all others. What was missing was recognition that Tipton-Haynes has an expansive history over many different lifetimes not limited to the Tipton family. The Association chose to ignore much of the site's history to preserve what they felt necessary. Having such influence over the site allowed this choice to be made and limited the inclusiveness and educational vitality of the site for the public. Accepting the extensive nature of the site's history aided the site in its alterations to the interpretation allowing for a more inclusive and enjoyable tour covering not just the Tipton family but the Haynes and Simerly families as well. Changes to the interpretation resulting from additions and influence provided by new Association members, the inclusion of slave and family history, and the life of Landon Carter Haynes elevated the site's interpretation to a more accurate portrayal of the site's history. The continued fight between remaining as accurate as possible and retaining the connectivity between the site and its guest, challenges the site and its interpretation to expand and continually adjust to the ever-changing public desire.

CHAPTER 2. TIPTON-HAYNES' INTERPRETIVE HISTORY

In her book, *The House on Diamond Hill*, Tiya Mills asks a question about Georgia's Vann House that might equally well apply to Tipton-Haynes or any house museum. "What is it we are connecting with," she asks, when we step into a historic house or onto a historic landscape?⁷⁴ In the first decades of the Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site's existence, board members, site directors, and staff seemingly valued only a portion of the site's complex story. However, by the time the state of Tennessee assumed ownership of Tipton-Haynes in 1944, members of the Tipton, Haynes, and Simerly families had lived on the property for over a century. Their actions and experiences wove the property into the history of the region and the nation. Perhaps before exploring how and why internal and external forces narrowed the interpretation of the site, a review of the site's history is in order.

Colonel John Tipton, statesman of Virginia, North Carolina and Tennessee, had an active and prominent life in all three states' military and political affairs. Much of his early life is unknown except that he was born on August 15, 1730, to Johnathon Tipton II and Elizabeth Edwards and his baptism was registered at St. Paul's Parish in Baltimore, Maryland. He did not resurface until his father, Johnathon Tipton II, moved from Baltimore to Fredrick County, Virginia, just outside of Winchester, when John Tipton was only seventeen. Within a few years of the move, John Tipton likely began courting Mary Butler. The couple married in 1751, when Colonel Tipton was twenty-one years old and Mary was nineteen. John Tipton and Mary began living 5.5 miles outside of Woodstock, thirty-five miles away from his father in Winchester, to move closer to his wife's family on Cedar Creek also near Woodstock, Virginia.

⁷⁴ Tiya Miles, *The House on Diamond Hill a Cherokee Plantation Story* (Chapel Hill, NC: The University of North Carolina Press, 2010), xv.

John Tipton and his wife Mary had nine sons together. These were Samuel (1752), Benjamin (1755), Abraham (1756), William (1761), Isaac (1763), Jacob (1765), John Jr. (1767), Thomas (1771), and Johnathon (1776), all of whom were born in the Shenandoah Valley on Cedar Creek. Mary Tipton died giving birth to their ninth son Johnathon on June 8, 1776 and is believed to be buried on John Tipton's farm in Cedar Creek, Virginia. Ervin Tipton speaks of Mary's burial in Cedar Creek in *We Tiptons and Our Kin*, but Tipton family lore states that Mary was reinterred in Washington County, Tennessee, to lie alongside her husband after his passing, but no records have been found to substantiate the claim.⁷⁵ Just over a year after Mary's death, on June 22, 1777, John Tipton married Martha Denton Moore. She bore Colonel Tipton one son, Abraham, in 1780. Interestingly, Martha had a daughter named Phoebe (1761) from a previous marriage, who married her stepbrother William (1761), fourth son of Colonel Tipton.⁷⁶

While married to Mary, John Tipton became active in the local militia and in local politics. When Dunmore County was created in 1772, Tipton was elected as the Justice of the Courts, and was believed to have been the county court clerk.⁷⁷ Also, in 1774 he was elected to the Virginia House of Burgesses for Dunmore County.⁷⁸ That same year Governor Dunmore, the last Royal Governor of Virginia, petitioned the House of Burgesses to declare war on the native tribes of the Ohio Valley for their actions against the crown colonists.⁷⁹ Tipton volunteered for

⁷⁵ Ervin Charles Tipton, *We Tipton and Our Kin* (San Rafael, California: Ervin Charles Tipton, 1975), 553

⁷⁶ William Tipton Descendant records, Tipton Family Collection, Series I-D, Box 3, Folder 11, Mary Hardin McCown Archives, Tipton Haynes State Historic Site, Johnson City, TN.

⁷⁷ Jo Lee Tipton, *The Tipton's* (Self-Published, 1979), 28.

⁷⁸ Ibid.

⁷⁹ John W. Wayland, *A History of Shenandoah County Virginia* (Baltimore, Maryland: Regional Publishing Company, 1976), 652-654.

the militia and held the rank of Captain.⁸⁰ Also, he possibly helped lead the militia through the Battle of Point Pleasant on October 10, 1774. This was one of only a few skirmishes in what would become known as Lord Dunmore's War, during which the natives were forced to retreat and sign a treaty giving up their rights to the hunting land South of the River Ohio, creating a new boundary between the colonist and the natives.

At this same time, Captain Tipton was elected to the Safety and Correspondence Committee of Dunmore County, which met in Woodstock Virginia, and penned the Woodstock Resolution on June 16, 1774.⁸¹ This resolution was one of many that called for equality and rights for British colonists, and built on the ideas and framework of previous resolutions. His notoriety continued as he was also elected as a delegate to the First Virginia Assembly for Dunmore County, to be held in Williamsburg, Virginia.⁸² Captain Tipton served in the First Assembly and continued from 1774 until 1781 alongside Thomas Jefferson, Patrick Henry, and James Madison.⁸³ Its members also drafted the Virginia Bill of Rights in 1776, which James Madison used as a model for the first ten amendments to the American Constitution, or the Bill of Rights.

At the beginning of the American Revolution and being along in years, Captain Tipton became the recruiting officer for Shenandoah and held this position and the rank of Captain until

⁸⁰ Ibid.

⁸¹ "Colonel John Tipton: Maryland to Tennessee," Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site, Tipton-Haynes Historical Association, Inc., 2014, accessed April 9, 2019, <http://www.tipton-haynes.org/research/history/colonel-john-tipton/colonel-john-tipton-maryland-to-tennessee/>.

⁸² *The Tiptons in America* (Discussion Draft), Taylor Library, Shelf 4, Row 2, Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site, Johnson City, TN, 11.

⁸³ Ervin Charles Tipton, *We Tipton and Our Kin* (San Rafael, California, Ervin Charles Tipton, 1975), 553-556.

the end of the war in 1783.⁸⁴ According to documents and archival material about Captain John Tipton, not much seems to be known about the nature of his involvement in the war except for his rank of Captain and position as recruiting officer. In 1781 Tipton was elected as High Sherriff of Shenandoah County which he held until 1783.⁸⁵

It is believed that in 1783 Captain Tipton decided to follow his two brothers to the Watauga settlement region of North Carolina and gave up his position as High Sheriff of Shenandoah County Virginia that same year, although no records have been found that prove he bought lands or lived in the area of the Watauga Settlement until the following year.⁸⁶ Captain Tipton moved with his second wife Martha and at least three or four of his sons under the age of 18.⁸⁷ He began to buy large tracts of land in what would become Carter County from the Haughton brothers, purchasing 640 acres from Joshua Haughton on March 20, 1784, and 522 acres from Thomas Haughton on March 27, 1784.⁸⁸ Just a few months Captain Tipton purchased land several miles away, around the base of Buffalo Mountain near present day Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site from Samuel Henry Sr. It is unclear what made him change locations of the purchase. The first purchase from Samuel Henry Sr, of one hundred acres was paid for in North

⁸⁴ “Colonel John Tipton: Maryland to Tennessee,” Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site, Tipton-Haynes Historical Association, Inc., 2014, accessed April 9, 2019, <http://www.tipton-haynes.org/research/history/colonel-john-tipton/colonel-john-tipton-maryland-to-tennessee/>.

⁸⁵ Ervin Charles Tipton, *We Tipton and Our Kin* (San Rafael, California: Ervin Charles Tipton, 1975), 554.

⁸⁶ *Ibid.*

⁸⁷ “Descendants,” Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site, Tipton-Haynes Historical Association, Inc., 2014, accessed April 9, 2019, <http://www.tipton-haynes.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/09/Tipton-Genealogy.pdf>.

⁸⁸ Loraine Rea, *Washington County, Tennessee Deeds, 1775-1800* (Greenville, South Carolina: Southern Historical Press, Inc. 1991), 55.

Carolina currency of fifty pounds on May 15, 1784.⁸⁹ After this purchase he once again bought another 522 acres from the Haughton family in two purchases in current day Carter County.⁹⁰

Colonel Tipton returned to Buffalo Mountain and bought another one hundred acres adjoining his lands there from Baptist McNabb.⁹¹ The adjacent lands bought from Samuel Henry Sr. was listed as “Tipton’s Manor” on a subsequent deed. On November 10, 1784, he was granted 150 acres by the State of North Carolina that also joined his manor.⁹²

In a letter to Lyman C. Draper, Johnathon Tipton, Colonel Tipton’s son, indicated that the Tiptons moved to the region in October 1784.⁹³ The Tipton property was located just off the base of Buffalo Mountain on one of the main thoroughfares through Eastern Appalachia, and was along a direct route to Jonesborough, the oldest town in the region.⁹⁴ The home that Colonel Tipton built was a simple log cabin which was 25’ X 30’.⁹⁵ This cabin only had “two or three window holes, round” upstairs for a draft during the summer and the upstairs was only a loft story of around 5’7” high.⁹⁶ The height of the upstairs might have been a struggle for Colonel Tipton as a description of him written in *We Tipton and our Kin* by Ervin Tipton states that

⁸⁹ Ibid.

⁹⁰ Ibid., 77-78.

⁹¹ Ibid., 78

⁹² Ibid., 52

⁹³ Johnathon Tipton to Lyman C. Draper, Lyman C. Draper Manuscript, Mary Hardin McCown Archives Filing Cabinet 1, Drawer 1, History/Genealogy, Mary Hardin McCown Archives, Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site, Johnson City, TN, 74.

⁹⁴ “A map of the state of Tennessee taken from survey,” Library of Congress, accessed April 9, 2019, <https://www.loc.gov/item/2011588000/>.

⁹⁵ Interview with General Thomas Love by Lyman C. Draper, Lyman C. Draper Manuscript, Mary Hardin McCown Archives Filing Cabinet 1, Drawer 1, History/Genealogy, Mary Hardin McCown Archives, Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site, Johnson City, TN, 54.

⁹⁶ Ibid.

“Colonel John Tipton, was a big man, six feet tall....”⁹⁷ Also, a drawing done of the property by Lyman C. Draper from an interview with General Thomas Love, who was at the Tipton Sevier Battle (as it was called in the Draper interview) shows, along with his home, a barn and an outbuilding on the property.⁹⁸

The federal government passed the Ordinance of 1784 in April.⁹⁹ The ordinance called for the states with western lands to relinquish them to the Federal government to be sold for reparations for Revolutionary War debts.¹⁰⁰ North Carolina gave the federal government one year to accept the cession of their lands, but just six months later in November, they reclaimed the lands because no other state ceded theirs.¹⁰¹ Though North Carolina held governing rights over the land through these six months, the residents of the western counties felt their voices were not being heard and believed they were going to be discarded whether the Federal Government accepted the cession bill or not.¹⁰² This fear grew from the belief that lawlessness and Indian raids would become common, so the western counties decided to act.¹⁰³

⁹⁷ Ervin Charles Tipton, *We Tipton and Our Kin* (San Rafael, California: Ervin Charles Tipton, 1975), 556.

⁹⁸ Lyman C. Draper, Lyman C. Draper Manuscript, Mary Hardin McCown Archives Filing Cabinet 1, Drawer 1, History/Genealogy, Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site, Johnson City, TN.

⁹⁹ “Ordinance of 1784,” Ohio History Collections, Ohio History Central, accessed April 9, 2019, http://www.ohiohistorycentral.org/w/Ordinance_of_1784?rec=1447.

¹⁰⁰ “Ordinance of 1784,” Ohio History Collections, Ohio History Central, accessed April 9, 2019, http://www.ohiohistorycentral.org/w/Ordinance_of_1784?rec=1447.

¹⁰¹ *O Beautiful Land of the Mountains: A History of Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site* (Self Published, Tipton-Haynes Historical Association, 2014), 21.

¹⁰² Ibid.

¹⁰³ Ibid.

On August 23 and 24, 1784, Washington, Greene, and Sullivan Counties elected delegates to meet in the town of Jonesborough to discuss the future of their region.¹⁰⁴ This delegation was tasked to discover if there was a large enough desire for separation from the mother state. A motion of full independence and separation from North Carolina was passed unanimously.¹⁰⁵ In March, 1785, John Sevier was elected governor of the proposed state.¹⁰⁶ Captain Tipton was also skeptical and had a chance to voice his concerns when he and his brother Joseph were elected as Washington County representatives to the December 14 assembly.¹⁰⁷ This assembly would become the First Constitutional Convention of the state as a meeting was held to vote on the state's ruling constitution. The Franklin Constitution, which was to be reviewed after six months, passed temporarily even with Captain Tipton and his brother voting against it.

After the Constitutional Convention, Captain Tipton emerged as a major community leader against the formation of the State of Franklin. Governor Martin of North Carolina issued "A Manifesto" on April 25, stating that this notion of a new state was started on lies and would bring ruin not only to themselves but the nation as a whole. Tipton received this manifesto and began distributing it to the region's settlers.¹⁰⁸ This sparked resentment between Captain Tipton and Governor John Sevier as Tipton was adamantly rebelling against the new state in which he lived. John Sevier issued a proclamation condemning the manifesto and stating that its purpose

¹⁰⁴ *History of Washington County Tennessee 1988* (Johnson City, Watauga Association of Genealogists – Upper East Tennessee, 1988), 20

¹⁰⁵ *Ibid.*, 21

¹⁰⁶ *Ibid.*

¹⁰⁷ Ervin Charles Tipton, *We Tipton and Our Kin* (San Rafael, California, Ervin Charles Tipton, 1975), 555

¹⁰⁸ Governor Alexander Martin from Colonel John Tipton, May 13, 1785, UNC Library Copy, Volume 22, Mary Hardin McCown Collection, Box 2, Folder 18, Mary Hardin McCown Archives, 648.

was only to spark “sedition and stir up insurrection among the good citizens of this state.”¹⁰⁹ The Second General Assembly of Franklin took place in August 1785, but Captain Tipton was believed not to have been in attendance. He was reelected as the Washington County representative for the Second Constitutional Convention through November and December of that same year.¹¹⁰ This convention was to ratify formally a constitution, which Captain Tipton voted against.¹¹¹ Not much is known about Tipton and his actions between the General Assembly and the Second Constitutional Convention, though throughout this time he was acquiring notoriety among the community settlers and the North Carolina government.

As proceedings for the State of Franklin continued Captain Tipton was working on a different front. His notoriety in the county and the region was drastically growing, which led to the 1786 elections. Tipton was elected as the North Carolina Senator for Washington County, and was uncontested by any North Carolina loyalist.¹¹² Franklinites ran for this election but were unable to defeat the up and coming leader. Captain Tipton attended the North Carolina General Assembly in November of the same year, which was held in Fayetteville. During this assembly Evan Shelby was awarded the rank of Brigadier General over the western region, a position offered to John Sevier the previous year, which he turned down, and Captain Tipton was formally awarded the rank of Colonel over the militia of Washington County.¹¹³

¹⁰⁹ Samuel Cole Williams, *History of the Lost State of Franklin* (Johnson City, Tennessee: The Overmountain Press, 1993), 72-73.

¹¹⁰ *O Beautiful Land of the Mountains: A History of Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site* (Self Published, Tipton-Haynes Historical Association, 2014), 23.

¹¹¹ Ibid.

¹¹² J.G.M Ramsey, *Annals of Tennessee*. Re-print (Knoxville, Tennessee: East Tennessee Historical Society, 1967), 338-339.

¹¹³ “State of Franklin Chronology,” Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site, Tipton-Haynes Historical Association, Inc., 2014, accessed April 12, 2019, <http://www.tipton-haynes.org/research/history/state-of-franklin/state-of-franklin-chronology/>.

As North Carolina rejected the election in 1787 and Colonel Tipton was faced with decisions about his political stance against Franklin, he continued to oppose the formation of the new state and by doing so, he received a letter from the new North Carolina Governor Samuel Johnston ordering the seizure of property from the rebelling Franklinites to pay back tax debts to North Carolina.¹¹⁴ This could have been in the form of currency or by selling household items and then sending the money to Raleigh to pay off the debts owed. Colonel Tipton formed a group of his loyal Tiptonites, who were led to the Sevier farm by High Sheriff Johnathon Pugh.¹¹⁵ Though Governor Sevier was not home, this small force collected personal property and slaves from the farm and brought them back to the Tipton Cabin.¹¹⁶ Colonel Tipton then wrote a letter back to Samuel Johnston stating the he had collected items from John Sevier and stored them in his basement kitchen for safe keeping.¹¹⁷ Sevier was with the Franklin militia trying to expand the states boarders west, but upon hearing what Colonel Tipton had done, he turned the militia around and marched towards his opponent's home.¹¹⁸ This sparked what would become known as The Battle for the Lost State of Franklin.

Upon arrival at Colonel Tipton's cabin on February 27, 1788, Sevier ordered his men, around 250 of them, to surround the home and not to let anyone pass.¹¹⁹ A letter from Johnathon

¹¹⁴ *History of Washington County Tennessee 1988* (Johnson City, TN: Watauga Association of Genealogists – Upper East Tennessee, 1988), 23.

¹¹⁵ *Ibid.*

¹¹⁶ *Ibid.*

¹¹⁷ J. G. M. Ramsey, *The Annals of Tennessee to the End of the Eighteenth Century* (Charleston, South Carolina: Walker and Jones, 1853), 406.

¹¹⁸ *History of Washington County Tennessee 1988* (Johnson City, TN: Watauga Association of Genealogists – Upper East Tennessee, 1988), 23.

¹¹⁹ Johnathon Tipton to Lyman C. Draper, Lyman C. Draper Manuscript, Mary Hardin McCown Archives Filing Cabinet 1, Drawer 1, History/Genealogy, Mary Hardin McCown Archives, Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site, Johnson City, TN, 73.

Tipton to Lyman Draper helps explain the battle by saying that John Sevier camped around a quarter of a mile away and needed to shut off any access to the cabin to keep reinforcements from aiding Colonel Tipton.¹²⁰ Colonel Tipton, who was expecting the assault, “had not over forty-five men,” including Sheriff Johnathon Pugh of Jonesborough, in his cabin ready to defend their rights as North Carolina citizens.¹²¹ John Sevier sent a message to Tipton giving Tipton thirty minutes to surrender, but he refused.¹²² Colonel Tipton answered back verbally stating “he begged no favors and if Sevier surrender himself and leaders, they should have benefit of North Carolina law.”¹²³ Word had reached some fellow Tiptonites of the siege on Tipton’s home and they rushed to his aid. Upon approach, these new forces were fired upon by the entire contingent of Franklinites surrounding the homestead, forcing them to retreat and causing panic in some of the Tiptonites. Two women ran out of the front door of the cabin, one of whom, Racheal Devinsly, was shot in the shoulder with a musket ball.¹²⁴ The first day ended with Sevier capturing five of the approaching men and wounding several, but there were no fatalities.

As Johnathon Tipton continues in the letters, he states that the weather turned, and it began to snow. This caused John Sevier’s men to abandon their posts in the night and return to camp to keep warm. Colonel Tipton’s reinforcements arrived the morning of the second day and, realizing that no sentry was present, stormed for the house and invigorated the men there. This rallied the Tiptonites, but no substantial fighting occurred. Only as men were entering and

¹²⁰ Ibid.

¹²¹ Ibid.

¹²² Council of Officers to John Tipton, February 27, 1788, Mary Hardin McCown Collection Box 2 Folder 18, Mary Hardin McCown Archives, Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site, Johnson City, TN.

¹²³ Samuel Cole Williams, *History of the Lost State of Franklin (Johnson City, Tennessee: The Overmountain Press, 1993)*, 200.

¹²⁴ Lyman C. Draper Manuscript Notes, Lyman C. Draper, Lyman C. Draper Manuscript, Mary Hardin McCown Archives Filing Cabinet 1, Drawer 1, History/Genealogy, Mary Hardin McCown Archives, Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site, Johnson City.

exiting the cabin were the Tiptonites fired upon, resulting in one death. Colonel Tipton prepared to defend himself after refusing to surrender to John Sevier for a second time. The second day came to a close and neither force had moved.

Johnathon Tipton's letter does not give an exact date for the battle, but on the morning of the third day he does state that Colonel Scott, General Rutledge, and Major Pemberton from Sullivan County arrived to help reinforce Colonel Tipton.¹²⁵ This force also exploited the large gaps in sentries as they made their way along the roads towards Sevier's camp.¹²⁶ The morning of their arrival, they gave a volley of shots and yelled to show support for Tipton and his men, which was answered by a yell and volley from the cabin.¹²⁷ Johnathon Tipton states that the morning was dark and no one knew who the other was in front of them, but the fight raged on.¹²⁸ Colonel Tipton's force had grown from roughly forty-five men to now equal the opposing force of nearly 200.¹²⁹ This gave Colonel Tipton high spirits as he led his men from the cabin and charged Sevier's lines, while the units from Sullivan County charged the camp. With these two opposing forces breaking through the sentries and outlying units, they surrounded Sevier's forces, causing Sevier to retreat.¹³⁰ After believing he had the upper hand for two days, Sevier's

¹²⁵ Johnathon Tipton to Lyman C. Draper, Lyman C. Draper Manuscript, Mary Hardin McCown Archives Filing Cabinet 1, Drawer 1, History/Genealogy, Mary Hardin McCown Archives, Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site, Johnson City, TN, 73.

¹²⁶ J. G. M. Ramsey, *The Annals of Tennessee to the End of the Eighteenth Century* (Charleston, South Carolina: Walker and Jones, 1853), 407-409.

¹²⁷ Ibid.

¹²⁸ Johnathon Tipton to Lyman C. Draper, Lyman C. Draper Manuscript, Mary Hardin McCown Archives Filing Cabinet 1, Drawer 1, History/Genealogy, Mary Hardin McCown Archives, Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site, Johnson City, TN, 73.

¹²⁹ J. G. M. Ramsey, *The Annals of Tennessee to the End of the Eighteenth Century* (Charleston, South Carolina: Walker and Jones, 1853), 407-409.

¹³⁰ Samuel Cole Williams, *History of the Lost State of Franklin* (Johnson City, Tennessee: The Overmountain Press, 1993), 200-209.

forces were routed, and all hopes of ending North Carolina's rule in the area were lost. In the fray, three men were mortally shot and many more wounded.¹³¹ Sheriff Johnathon Pugh, a longtime friend of Colonel Tipton, was one of those mortally wounded and died a few days after the battle.¹³² The retreat of John Sevier formally ended what became known as the Battle of the Lost State of Franklin that, for most historians, marked an end of Franklin itself.

Colonel Tipton gave a deposition regarding the battle in the Washington County Court House on August 20, 1788, over six months later.¹³³ The deposition had one difference from earlier records, in that it stated that the women who were shot at were actually around the Spring House near the cave, returning up the hill to the cabin and that this happened on the first day.¹³⁴ According to Colonel Tipton, the second day hosted several volleys against the home and wounded several men on both side, and that volleys continued into the third morning when Sevier was forced to retreat.¹³⁵ This deposition gives sworn statements about the event and further documents the struggles and hostilities of the time period, providing a in person perspective of the region's unrest.

On July 29, 1788, North Carolina Governor Samuel Johnston ordered Judge David Campbell to issue a warrant for John Sevier. As a proponent of the State of Franklin, Judge

¹³¹ Johnathon Tipton to Lyman C. Draper, Lyman C. Draper Manuscript, Mary Hardin McCown Archives Filing Cabinet 1, Drawer 1, History/Genealogy, Mary Hardin McCown Archives, Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site, Johnson City, TN, 74-75.

¹³² J. G. M. Ramsey, *The Annals of Tennessee to the End of the Eighteenth Century* (Charleston, South Carolina, Walker and Jones, 1853), 409-410.

¹³³ State of North Carolina, Deposition of Colonel John Tipton, August 20, 1788, Mary Hardin McCown Collection Box 6 Folder 17, Mary Hardin McCown Archives, Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site, Johnson City, TN.

¹³⁴ Ibid.

¹³⁵ Ibid.

Campbell denied the request.¹³⁶ Johnston then gave the order to Judge Spencer, who fought with the Tiptonites, who served the warrant on October 10 of that same year.¹³⁷ Colonel Tipton, with his sons and militiamen, followed the order and began hunting down Sevier. Sevier was found in the home of a family friend and relative Ruth Brown.¹³⁸ Sevier eventually surrendered and allowed Colonel Tipton to send him to Morganton for sentencing under the guard of Jacob Tipton, his second oldest son and other officers.¹³⁹

Sevier was able to evade court in Morganton and returned to Western North Carolina. Several stories exist to how he avoided trial, but none can be substantiated. After he returned west, he gave his oath back to North Carolina, and was elected as senator for Greene County in 1789.¹⁴⁰ He also accepted the title previously given to him in 1784 as brigadier general over the Washington District effective in 1784, “as if Franklin had never existed.”¹⁴¹ Colonel Tipton remained the lead colonel of the Washington County militia, now under the command of John Sevier, until the formation of the Territory South of the River Ohio - better known as the Southwest Territory - formed in 1790, when Governor of the territory William Blount appointed new militia leaders.¹⁴² Colonel Tipton was removed from command of the militia but was elected

¹³⁶ Samuel Cole Williams, *History of the Lost State of Franklin* (Johnson City, Tennessee: The Overmountain Press, 1993), 231.

¹³⁷ *History of Washington County Tennessee 1988* (Johnson City, Watauga Association of Genealogists – Upper East Tennessee, 1988), 23.

¹³⁸ Samuel Cole Williams, *History of the Lost State of Franklin* (Johnson City, Tennessee: The Overmountain Press, 1993), 231-233.

¹³⁹ Ibid.

¹⁴⁰ *History of Washington County Tennessee 1988* (Johnson City, TN: Watauga Association of Genealogists – Upper East Tennessee, 1988), 20-24.

¹⁴¹ Ibid.

¹⁴² John Haywood, *The Civil and Political History of the State of Tennessee from its Earliest Settlement Up to the Year 1796, Including the Boundaries of the State* (Publishing House for the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, Nashville, Tennessee, 1891), 262-265.

as a representative to the territories government for Washington County. He served in this capacity until Tennessee formed as a new state six years later.

Throughout the existence of the Southwest Territory new counties and districts were being formed, and in June, 1795, Governor Blount ordered his subordinates to begin working towards statehood.¹⁴³ In an election held December 18-19, 1795, residents elected five members from each county as delegates to a new constitutional convention. Colonel Tipton was elected and help draft the new state's constitution.¹⁴⁴ Thomas Jefferson stated that the resulting constitution was "The least imperfect and most republican of any system of government adopted by any of the American states."¹⁴⁵ This committee gave Governor Blount rights to conduct elections for the new state government, in which John Sevier was elected governor and Colonel Tipton was elected Washington County senator.¹⁴⁶ The Territory officially ended on March 28, 1796, when the first Tennessee senate met and informed the federal government that the new state had formed. President Washington signed this order on June 1, 1796, formally making Tennessee the first state to form from a territory.¹⁴⁷ Colonel Tipton held his seat as senator until

¹⁴³ *History of Washington County Tennessee 1988* (Johnson City, TN: Watauga Association of Genealogists – Upper East Tennessee, 1988), 24.

¹⁴⁴ Will Thomas Hale and Dixon Lanier Merritt, *A History of Tennessee and Tennesseans* (Chicago, Illinois, The Lewis Publishing Company, 1913), 2602.

¹⁴⁵ Ervin Charles Tipton, *We Tipton and Our Kin* (San Rafael, California, Ervin Charles Tipton, 1975), 556.

¹⁴⁶ John Haywood, *The Civil and Political History of the State of Tennessee from its Earliest Settlement Up to the Year 1796, Including the Boundaries of the State* (South, Nashville, Tennessee: Publishing House for the Methodist Episcopal Church, 1891), 262-265.

¹⁴⁷ *History of Washington County Tennessee 1988* (Johnson City, TN: Watauga Association of Genealogists – Upper East Tennessee, 1988), 24

1799 when he retired to his home in Washington County after twenty-seven years in political service.¹⁴⁸

Colonel Tipton lived out his last years raising his horses and racing them when he could, but his life ended on August 9, 1813. The cause of his passing is unknown.¹⁴⁹ He was six days shy of turning eighty-three years old and left behind a legacy of family members and a story for the future. He was buried near his home in a marked grave in the Tipton-Haynes Cemetery.¹⁵⁰ Martha Denton Moore Tipton, his second wife, is buried alongside him, but a second stone is also placed there. It may never be known who the other stone is for. Thomas Jefferson wrote the family a letter of condolence on July 15, 1823 that was copied into the Tipton Family Bible by Margaret Snapp Weeks, stating “Col. John Tipton, was a man of strong conviction and loyal determination. He was endowed with a high order of intellect. He possessed a high sense of honor. He was a personification of loyalty to the state and country.”¹⁵¹ The Bible belonged to Abraham Butler Tipton, grandson of Colonel Tipton and the last recorded descendent in possession of the bible was H.H Hord Tipton in 1948, but has since been lost to time.¹⁵² The home of Colonel Tipton was left to his heirs, however, John Tipton Jr. is believed to be the next occupant of the home though several records contradict the timing.

¹⁴⁸ Will Thomas Hale and Dixon Lanier Merritt, *A History of Tennessee and Tennesseans* (Chicago, Illinois: The Lewis Publishing Company, 1913), 2602.

¹⁴⁹ Ervin Charles Tipton, *We Tipton and Our Kin* (San Rafael, California: Ervin Charles Tipton, 1975), 556.

¹⁵⁰ Ervin Charles Tipton, *We Tipton and Our Kin* (San Rafael, California: Ervin Charles Tipton, 1975), 556.

¹⁵¹ *Ibid.*, 568.

¹⁵² *Ibid.*, 568.

John Tipton Jr. was born April 21, 1767, in Shenandoah County, Virginia, and died on October 8, 1831, at the age of 64.¹⁵³ It is believed that he moved with his father and family to Western North Carolina in 1784. In a biographical description of him in the Tennessee State Archives, John Tipton Jr. had a liberal arts education before moving to the region.¹⁵⁴ However, the first known record of John Tipton Jr. is his enlistment in the East Tennessee Company under the command of his brother Jacob Tipton on May 28, 1791 according to Tipton historian, Evelyn Thompson.¹⁵⁵ Between May, when he mustered into service, and the following October, John Tipton Jr. most likely served with his brother. Some secondary records state that he fought against Native Americans during his enlistment, but no primary records from this time have been found at present.¹⁵⁶

In October 1791, John Tipton Jr. must have taken a leave of absence and returned to the Shenandoah Valley to marry. On October 27, 1791 he married Elizabeth Snapp (Nov. 2, 1771 – July 6, 1829) and lived in the valley until Fall 1797.¹⁵⁷ That Fall, Tipton Jr. and his family moved to the newly formed state of Tennessee, where Elizabeth's family had been buying large amounts of land around the Blountville area.¹⁵⁸ After moving to Blountville the family most likely stayed with the Snapps until September 13, 1798, when Tipton Jr. purchased 600 acres for \$4,000.00

¹⁵³ "Nashville, Monday, October 10, 1831, Died," *National Banner and Nashville Whig*, October 10, 1831, March 6, 2020, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/603764419>.

¹⁵⁴ Robert M. McBride and Dan M. McBride, *Biographical Directory of the Tennessee General Assembly: Volume 1 1796-1861* (Nashville, TN: Tennessee State Library and Archives, 1975), 727.

¹⁵⁵ Tipton Data, Samuel, War of 1812 Data, Land Entry Books, Wm. Reno, Mary Hardin McCown Collection, Box 2, Folder 9, Mary Hardin McCown Archives, Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site, Johnson City, TN.

¹⁵⁶ Ibid.

¹⁵⁷ Ervin Charles Tipton, *We Tipton and Our Kin* (San Rafael, California, Ervin Charles Tipton, 1975), 745.

¹⁵⁸ Power of Attorney, Sept. 9, 1810, William G. Cooper Collection, Box 3 Folder 10, Mary Hardin McCown Archives, Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site, Johnson City, TN.

from Laurence Snapp.¹⁵⁹ Tipton Jr. built his home, which still stands, on main street Blountville, or more commonly called then the Old Stage Road. During their marriage Tipton Jr. and his wife had a total of two sons and seven daughters.¹⁶⁰

Found in the Tipton-Haynes Archives, a quote by Edyth Rucker Whitley of Nashville, a professional genealogist and Tennessee Historian, states that, “Honorable John Tipton served under his brother Capt. Jacob Tipton in 1791 against the Indians. During the conflict with the Indians and subsequently the War of 1812, he was commissioned Lt. Col. Commandant of Regiment of Sullivan Co., TN, 16 June 1801. He succeeded John Scott who resigned.”¹⁶¹ In 1809 Tipton Jr. was listed as the officer for the Sullivan County Militia, using the title given. The unit was never called into action but was responsible for collecting taxes from the county’s citizens. Also, as stated in the quote, Tipton Jr. participated in the War of 1812. This is disputed among many Tiptons and Tipton historians due to limited information being found.

After six years of living in Blountville, Tipton Jr. became one of the largest land owners in the area, and with such prominence was elected to his first term as a House of Representative member in 1803.¹⁶² After completing this first term, the people of his district reelected him for another five consecutive terms. He held his seat from 1803 to 1815 when he took a term off from politics and missed the eleventh general assembly.¹⁶³ It is unclear why he did this, but speculation suggests that he was dealing with his family for his father, Colonel Tipton, had

¹⁵⁹ Tipton Data, Samuel, War of 1812 Data, Land Entry Books, Wm. Reno, Mary Hardin McCown Collection, Box 2, Folder 9, Mary Hardin McCown Archives, Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site, Johnson City, TN.

¹⁶⁰ Ibid.

¹⁶¹ Ibid.

¹⁶² Robert H. White, *Messages of the Governors of Tennessee 1796-1821. Volume 1* (Nashville, Tennessee: Tennessee Historical Commission, 1952), 734.

¹⁶³ Ibid., 734-737.

passed in August 1813. His death would have been nearly a year into Tipton Jr.'s sixth term, and if in Nashville he would have been unable to pay his respects. In his third election as a representative, Tipton Jr. was elected as House Speaker.¹⁶⁴ For each of these consecutive elections, Tipton Jr. represented Sullivan County but returned for the twelfth general assembly as the State Senator representing Sullivan and Hawkins Counties.¹⁶⁵ He only held this position for one term, after which he took to running for office in the federal government.

For the next several years Tipton Jr. ran for the U.S. House of Representatives. Starting in 1818 he ran against John Rhea and for the next two elections lost narrowly to him. John Rhea was a large figure head that held this position from 1803 to 1815 and again from 1817 to 1823.¹⁶⁶ Rhea retired to his plantation in Blountville in 1823, while Tipton Jr. continued to fight for a federal seat. For the next three elections Tipton Jr. ran against John Blair another well-established Tennessean, all of which he lost.¹⁶⁷ Blair defeated Tipton in the elections of 1822, 1824, and 1826. Tipton Jr. after five consecutive losses took a term off from the election cycle in 1828 for an unknown reason but returned to the Tennessee House of Representatives in 1830 for the nineteenth general assembly.¹⁶⁸

With the death of his father in 1813 Tipton Jr. inherited his fathers' home. It is unclear why Tipton Jr. being so established in Blountville acquired the home over his brothers and it is unknown when exactly he moved into the home. Records of his seat in the General Assembly

¹⁶⁴ Ibid., 245.

¹⁶⁵ Robert M. McBride and Dan M. McBride, *Biographical Directory of the Tennessee General Assembly: Volume 1 1796-1861* (Nashville, TN: Tennessee State Library and Archives, 1975), 727.

¹⁶⁶ Caneta Skelley Hankins, "John Rhea," Tennessee Encyclopedia, Tennessee Historical Society, December 11, 2019, March 20, 2020, <https://tennesseeencyclopedia.net/entries/john-rhea/>.

¹⁶⁷ Ibid.

¹⁶⁸ Robert H. White, *Messages of the Governors of Tennessee 1821-1835. Volume 2* (Nashville, Tennessee: Tennessee Historical Commission, 1952), 684-685.

place him in Nashville representing Sullivan and Hawkins Counties as the state Senator in 1817. He could have moved during this term but being listed from these counties gives the opinion that he was still in his home in Blountville in 1817. To dispute this Tipton Jr.'s ninth child Edna/Edny is listed on the birth record of 1816 in Washington County. Though by 1820, he had sold a majority of his lands around Blountville and throughout Sullivan County possibly symbolizing the move to his father's cabin had been made. His father's one and half story cabin would have been small for nine family members, so based on current testing of the home it is believed that Tipton Jr. added the sitting room, another bedroom upstairs, and added the white clapboard siding, formally turning the home into a colonial farm style structure in the 1820s.¹⁶⁹

In his last election in 1830, Tipton Jr.'s health drastically declined. According to a news article from the Nashville Banner, Tipton Jr. upon his arrival in Nashville for the nineteenth General Assembly was in declining health.¹⁷⁰ It continues that the fate of his health was "despaired by most of his friends," but his departure was not so suddenly expected.¹⁷¹ The nineteenth session began September 19th, but on October 3rd Tipton Jr. must have known he was not getting better. On this day he created a short Will for himself stating the rights to his property and passed only five days later on October 8, 1831.¹⁷² The house speaker was notified and a meeting was called of both house and senate to lay John Tipton Jr. to rest in the Old City

¹⁶⁹ William P. Bailey III. *Green Meadows Mansion Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site Historic Structure Report* (Self-Published, 1989), 14-25.

¹⁷⁰ "Nashville, Monday, October 10, 1831, Died," *National Banner and Nashville Whig*, October 10, 1831, March 6, 2020, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/603764419>.

¹⁷¹ Ibid.

¹⁷² John Tipton, Jr. Will, Washington County Archives, Will Box, 117, Folder 42, Washington County Courthouse, Jonesborough, Tennessee.

Cemetery.¹⁷³ The two houses wore a black crape for thirty days in morning for the passing, and approved of a monument to be placed for his grave stone.

In Tipton Jr.'s Will, he lists all of his kids by name but only bequeaths three of them items from the home. In this he stated that Samuel, Elizabeth, and Edny were to obtain equal portions of the property according to price and size, but the home was to be given to Samuel alone.¹⁷⁴ He then stated that the items of his estate were to be sold to settle his debts and if any items remained that were to be divided amongst his other six children.¹⁷⁵ Reading how the Will bequeaths his estate and then comparing it to his estate record draws some interesting conclusions. Many of the items in the estate upon auction were bought back by Samuel and Elizabeth, while others of the family are also listed as purchasers.¹⁷⁶ Samuel, Elizabeth, and Edny after just over six years of jointly owning the home, formally sold the property to David Hains (Haynes) on May 8, 1838.¹⁷⁷ This transaction was concluded for \$1,050.00 paid in hand for "two hundred acres, more or less."¹⁷⁸

¹⁷³ Evelyn S. Thompson, "The Honorable John Tipton," Nashville Banner, October 9, 1831, William G. Cooper Collection, Box 2, Folder 10, Mary Hardin McCown Archives, Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site, Johnson City, TN.

¹⁷⁴ John Tipton, Jr. Will, Washington County Archives, Will Box, 117, Folder 42, Washington County Courthouse, Jonesborough, Tennessee.

¹⁷⁵ Ibid.

¹⁷⁶ Settlement of Estates collection Volume 00, Washington County Archives, Washington County Courthouse, Jonesborough, Tennessee, 272-273.

¹⁷⁷ Tipton Data, Samuel, War of 1812 Data, Land Entry Books, Wm. Reno, Mary Hardin McCown Collection, Box 2, Folder 9, Mary Hardin McCown Archives, Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site, Johnson City, TN.

¹⁷⁸ Ibid.

David Hains (1788-1868), married Rhoda Taylor (1795-1861) and built their home three miles from his father George Hains on Buffalo Creek current day Unicoi County, Tennessee.¹⁷⁹ David became a wealthy land owner and well-established mill wright being requisitioned by community members in all of the surrounding counties.¹⁸⁰ Documentation of the name Hains began to change with David's signature. The name began to change from its original spelling to the recognized spelling today Haynes.¹⁸¹ As his wealth increased, David Hains is said to have been able to ride the twelve-mile trip from his home, Mount Pleasant, to Jonesborough without ever leaving his property.¹⁸² David and Rhoda raised twelve kids of their own, all of whom made it through infancy.

A part of David Haynes' land acquisitions was the Tipton home and two hundred of the surrounding acreage in 1837 from John Tipton's heirs.¹⁸³ The Tipton heirs and China Boren both claimed the land that David was trying to acquire.¹⁸⁴ The Chancery Court decided that it would be sold to David Haynes from the legal deed holder, China Boren, and the Heirs, but the heirs received the payment for the land.¹⁸⁵ David never officially lived in the cabin to current beliefs but instead bought this home as a wedding gift to his eldest son Landon Carter Haynes (1816-

¹⁷⁹ Haynes Family: Correspondence, Research notes, genealogical and Biographical Information, William G. Cooper Collection, Box 3 Folder 6, Mary Hardin McCown Archives, Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site, Johnson City, TN.

¹⁸⁰ Shirley Haynes Staley, *For the Descendants of Hal H. Haynes* (Self-Published, 1970), 18.

¹⁸¹ Haynes Family: Correspondence, Research notes, genealogical and Biographical Information, William G. Cooper Collection, Box 3 Folder 6, Mary Hardin McCown Archives, Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site, Johnson City, TN.

¹⁸² Shirley Haynes Staley, *For the Descendants of Hal H. Haynes* (Self-Published, 1970), 16.

¹⁸³ Samuel P. Tipton to David, February 28, 1837, Tipton-Haynes Historical Association Records Series 1, Box 1, Folder 5 Mary Hardin McCown Archives, Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site, Johnson City, TN.

¹⁸⁴ Deed in Chancery Court to China Boren, May 28, 1824, Tipton-Haynes Historical Association Records Series 1, Box 1, Folder 20, Mary Hardin McCown Archives, Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site, Johnson City, TN.

¹⁸⁵ Deed in Chancery Court to China Boren, May 28, 1824, Tipton-Haynes Historical Association Records Series 1, Box 1, Folder 20, Mary Hardin McCown Archives, Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site, Johnson City, TN.

1875) and his new bride Eleanor Powell Haynes (1820- ?) who married in 1839. This is believed due to birth dates of Landon and his wife Eleanor's first son, Robert Haynes in 1840, in Washington County, TN.¹⁸⁶ No record has been found of David Haynes' transfer to his son, possibly due to it staying in the family. Landon and his family lived in the house from 1839 until the out-break of the American Civil War in 1861.

Landon Carter Haynes, born on December 2, 1816, was raised at the Mount Pleasant farm in Carter County.¹⁸⁷ In the book *For the Descendants of Judge Hal H. Haynes*, the author writes that Landon Haynes received an education from the Anderson School on Isaac Anderson's land in Carter County in his young age.¹⁸⁸ As a young man Haynes attended Washington College and graduated in 1838 at the age of twenty-two.¹⁸⁹ After which, Haynes began work as an apprentice to Thomas A.R. Nelson, the State Attorney for the First District of Tennessee.¹⁹⁰ When Nelson moved his practice from Elizabethton to Jonesborough around 1840, Haynes followed and became a "a future political son of Washington County."¹⁹¹ Haynes passed the bar

¹⁸⁶ Robert Haynes, 1840-1905 Grave Marker, Riverside Cemetery, Jackson, Tennessee.

¹⁸⁷ Haynes Family Collection/Taylor Reunion 2001-2002 and not dated, Haynes Family Collection, Series II & III Box 5, Unmarked Folder and Folder 6, Mary Hardin McCown Archives, Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site, Johnson City, TN.

¹⁸⁸ Shirley Haynes Staley, *For the Descendants of Hal H. Haynes* (Self-Published, 1970), 21-22.

¹⁸⁹ Haynes Family: Correspondence, Research notes, genealogical and Biographical Information, William G. Cooper Collection, Box 3 Folder 6, Mary Hardin McCown Archives, Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site, Johnson City, TN.

¹⁹⁰ Ibid.

¹⁹¹ William P. Bailey III. *Green Meadows Mansion Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site Historic Structure Report* (Self-Published, 1989), 10.

in 1840 but after moving to Jonesborough he discovered a secondary talent of the ability to express his beliefs.¹⁹²

Using his connections after serving under T.A.R. Nelson in Jonesborough, Haynes began work as the news editor of the *Tennessee Sentinel*.¹⁹³ He held this position until it was sold or merged with the *Old Hickory* newspaper, also in Jonesborough, around 1846.¹⁹⁴ During his time with the newspaper, a longtime feud between Haynes and William “Parson” Brownlow escalated. Excerpts in the *Whig* describe an assassination attempt on Brownlow’s life was made on March 2, 1840, which Brownlow blamed on Haynes.¹⁹⁵ Reports out of the paper cannot be substantiated due to them being written by the accuser. In his 1952 thesis, James Bellamy states that after the attempt on his life, Brownlow moved his newspaper the *Whig* to Jonesboro in order to be closer to his enemies.¹⁹⁶ Brownlow and Haynes continued their dispute for years using the two papers to attack the other and their views, even stooping to name calling, such as Haynes called Brownlow “a Slanderer and a Hireling Scribbler.”¹⁹⁷ Also, Brownlow’s attack of “Liar Culprit Haynes” on January 1, 1845 in the *Whig*.¹⁹⁸

¹⁹² Haynes Family: Correspondence, Research notes, genealogical and Biographical Information, William G. Cooper Collection, Box 3 Folder 6, Mary Hardin McCown Archives, Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site, Johnson City, TN.

¹⁹³ Paul Fink, “The Early Press of Jonesboro,” *East Tennessee Historical Society Publication*, 10 (1938): 65-67.

¹⁹⁴ Ibid.

¹⁹⁵ William Brownlow, “Landon Carter Haynes Number 2,” *The Elizabethton Whig* (Elizabethton, Tennessee), March 5, 1840, March 6, 2020, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/585790202/?terms=Haynes>.

¹⁹⁶ James W. Bellamy, “The Political Career of Landon Carter Haynes,” (Master’s thesis, The University of Tennessee, 1952), 17

¹⁹⁷ William Brownlow, “Landon Carter Haynes Number 1,” *The Elizabethton Whig* (Elizabethton, Tennessee), February 27, 1840, March 6, 2020, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/585790178/?terms=Haynes>.

¹⁹⁸ William Brownlow, “Liar Culprit Haynes,” *The Jonesborough Whig* (Jonesborough, Tennessee), January 1, 1845, March 6, 2020, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/586558018/?terms=Liar%2BCulprit>.

This feud came to blows in the streets of Jonesboro in 1840 when a fight broke out between the two men.¹⁹⁹ Several stories exist from this event but all offer some version of Haynes acquiring a pistol and shooting Brownlow in the upper leg.²⁰⁰ This event and feud would follow Haynes till the end of the Civil War when Brownlow became governor. Among his work at the newspaper and dispute with Brownlow, Haynes entered many careers, which included a position with the Methodist ministry, elector for political office, political office in the state House and Senate, and was elected as a Confederate senator for Tennessee. Throughout all of these career choices Haynes also kept up his law practice and worked from Jonesborough until the 1850s when he moved his practice closer to home.

One of the first occupations Haynes took on while working at the newspaper was as a Methodist minister, but only held this position for less than six months. According to Bellamy and his interpretation of events written throughout Brownlow's *Whig*, Haynes tried to put C.W.C. Harris on trial for “falsehood” in the Methodist Holston Conference on January 28-29, 1843.²⁰¹ This backfired against Haynes, who was instead put on trial for lying about Harris and other ministers and was convicted.²⁰² Brownlow was elected to serve as secretary at this meeting, which Haynes later accused of stationing men against him and his political party members throughout the ministry.²⁰³ Haynes was removed as a minister but not removed from the church, he was still allowed to join the congregation of the Methodist Church at Buffalo Campground.

¹⁹⁹ Ellis Merton Coulter, *William G. Brownlow: Fighting Parson of the Southern Highland* (Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 1937), 36-37.

²⁰⁰ William Brownlow, “Our Affray in 1840,” *The Jonesborough Whig and Independent Journal* (Jonesborough, Tennessee), January 25, 1843, March 6, 2020, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/58655492/?terms=Haynes>.

²⁰¹ William Brownlow, “The Sentinel Office,” *The Jonesborough Whig* (Jonesborough, Tennessee), September 13, 1843, March 6, 2020, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/586556111/?terms=ministry%2Btrial>.

²⁰² Ibid.

²⁰³ Ibid.

Haynes took to his skills as a writer and “denounced Brownlow as ‘the greatest hypocrite that ever wore the sheep skin of our holy religion.’”²⁰⁴ Writing this in the *Sentinel* by Haynes, but Brownlow refutes his statement in the *Whig*. Haynes license for ministry was reissued to him in 1857 by the Methodist ministry but he refused to accept it.²⁰⁵

After being removed from the ministry, Haynes entered political life. In 1844 he was the elector for the James K. Polk presidential campaign in East Tennessee and southern Virginia.²⁰⁶ He then ran in the 1845 election for a seat in the Tennessee House of Representatives and was successful in this venture.²⁰⁷ During this term he was placed on two select committees. One of these committees was for the deaf, dumb, and blind of the states.²⁰⁸ Haynes did not run for reelection in the House the following term but turned his views to the Senate, which he successfully won and represented Johnson, Carter, Sullivan, and Washington counties.²⁰⁹ Haynes again only held this seat for one term to run again for the House in 1849.²¹⁰ Between his Senate seat and return to the House, Haynes again became the elector for the presidential race. He spoke for Lewis Cass who was running against General Zachary Taylor, Taylor won the election. Though Cass lost his election Haynes won his and successfully was elected to a term in the

²⁰⁴ “History of the Tennessee Sentinel,” *Sentinel* of Feb’y, 18, 1843, *The Jonesborough Whig* (Jonesborough, Tennessee), March 22, 1843, March 6, 2020, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/586555649>.

²⁰⁵ James W. Bellamy, “The Political Career of Landon Carter Haynes,” (Master’s thesis, The University of Tennessee, 1952), 24.

²⁰⁶ Robert M. McBride and Dan M. McBride, *Biographical Directory of the Tennessee General Assembly: Volume 1 1796-1861* (Nashville, TN, Tennessee State Library and Archives, 1975), 348-349.

²⁰⁷ *Ibid.*

²⁰⁸ I. G. Brasfield, “Journal of the House of Representatives of the State of Tennessee at the Twenty-Sixth General Assembly, 1845-1846,” (Nashville: 1846).

²⁰⁹ Robert M. McBride and Dan M. McBride, *Biographical Directory of the Tennessee General Assembly: Volume 1 1796-1861* (Nashville, TN, Tennessee State Library and Archives, 1975), 348-349.

²¹⁰ *Ibid.*

House once more. He was also elected as the House speaker for this term.²¹¹ Haynes got ambitious with his wins and decided to run for federal office in the House of Representatives for the term of 1851-1853.²¹² The incumbent, Andrew Johnson was a major political power for Tennessee's first district and had held this seat for eight consecutive years.²¹³ Andrew Johnson eventually beat Haynes in the election even as they were both of the same party. Johnson, at the end of his term in 1853 was elected as governor for the state and eventually became the President of the United States. Haynes did not run for political office again after his loss to Johnson until 1859.

Haynes mostly remained home throughout the 1850's tending to his land and his law business. He kept his bar requirements throughout his elections and began working at this full time. In an interview Bellamy had with Dave Simmerly states, Landon was recorded as a defense lawyer, defending a man charged with murder in Elizabethton and succeed in his defense of the man.²¹⁴ Haynes' first case is believed to be recorded through another interview between Bellamy had with James K. Deakins on May 31, 1951. Deakins states that Haynes' first case was called the "Case of the Stolen Ham" which Haynes successfully vindicated his client, but does not give any indication to the date.²¹⁵ On February 10, 1857 Haynes received a five-dollar payment for his work with a petition of sale for a Mr. William Crouch's land and again on May 12, 1857 he

²¹¹ Ibid.

²¹² Hans L. Trefousse, *Andrew Johnson: A Bibliography* (W.W. Norton & Company, New York, NY, December 17, 1997), 78.

²¹³ Robert M. McBride and Dan M. McBride, *Biographical Directory of the Tennessee General Assembly: Volume 1 1796-1861* (Nashville, TN, Tennessee State Library and Archives, 1975), 348-349.

²¹⁴ James W. Bellamy, "The Political Career of Landon Carter Haynes," (Master's thesis, The University of Tennessee, 1952), 27

²¹⁵ Ibid., 27-28.

received seventy-five cents for acting as a legal agent to settle a debt.²¹⁶ These payments represent Haynes' ability not only to work as a defense lawyer but his full knowledge of the law.

The Haynes family made most of the changes to the Tipton-Haynes Historic Site. These additions can be seen through the drawing of the *A Winter in the South* by David Hunter Strother.²¹⁷ The drawing was published in the Harpers Monthly Magazine in 1857 winter addition.²¹⁸ Strother illustrated the grounds and buildings of the farm while Haynes was in ownership of the property. This drawing represents that Haynes had already constructed his barn, law office, corncrib, and slave cabin. Each of these buildings were believed to have been constructed in the late 1840's and early 1850's. The Corncribs dendrochronology testing dates its construction to 1851 and 1852, representing that this was one of the last constructions before the drawing was made.²¹⁹ Haynes owned three slaves and ended up putting his male slave George up as collateral on the debt.²²⁰ Haynes did eventually pay his debt because records indicate that his slave George tended the grounds of the farm throughout the Civil War.

In 1859 Haynes tried to reenter the realm of politics and decided to run for Congress.²²¹ Though he had failed in the past to reach federal office and had been out of politics for a while, he felt he could beat his opponent and longtime acquaintance, Thomas A. R. Nelson. Nelson had

²¹⁶ United States Work Project Administration, Records of Washington County, Settlement of Estates 1840-1861 (Nashville: Transcription of the county Archives of Tennessee, 1941), Book O, 177-182.

²¹⁷ *A Winter in the South*, Gertrude B. Deakins Collection Box 1, Folder 16, Mary Hardin McCown Archives, Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site, Johnson City TN.

²¹⁸ Ibid.

²¹⁹ Deed of Trust, Tipton-Haynes Historical Association Records, Series 1, Box 1, Folder 22, Mary Hardin McCown Archives, Johnson City, TN.

²²⁰ Ibid.

²²¹ Folder: Landon Carter Haynes: T.A.R Nelson Papers, McClung Historical Collection, Knoxville Tennessee, Tipton-Haynes Civil War Exhibit Collection, Box 2, Folder 20, Mary Hardin McCown Archives, Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site, Johnson City TN.

taught Haynes in his younger days the power of the law but as time progressed their political views pulled them apart. Haynes and Nelson debated multiple times throughout the Eastern parts of Tennessee, but even with Haynes's extraordinary oratorical skills, Nelson defeated him by a narrow margin. Nelson, while seated as the new representative was also elected president of the East Tennessee Convention that was to discuss forming East Tennessee as a new state away from the pro-Confederate middle and west Tennessee regions.²²²

However, even after his loss to Nelson, Haynes could celebrate. The United States government had renamed Johnson's Depot in honor of Haynes, officially renaming the town Haynesville.²²³ Despite speaking out for the pro-Confederate, pro-South cause, Haynes accepted the honor. The name Haynesville remained from 1859 to 1861 when Civil War broke out amongst the states.²²⁴ The federal government then reversed their decision and accepted the name as it once was, Johnson's Depot. During the war the Confederate cause still referred to the town as Haynesville in honor of their senator.

Sometime within the year of 1860 Haynes bought a lot in Knoxville in belief that it would be safer for his family to live in a pro-Confederate town. Washington County was a major pro-Union county, but Knoxville was a more Confederate city and with Haynes' political ideologies was a better suit. Along with these ideologies and Haynes' job as electorate for Breckenridge, Haynes made himself known in the secessionist realm, for in 1861 he was elected

²²² Thomas Alexander, "Strange Bedfellows: The Interlocking Careers of T.A.R. Nelson, Andrew Johnson, and W.G. (Parson) Brownlow," *East Tennessee Historical Society Publications*, 24 (1952): 68-91.

²²³ Washington County Historical Association, *History of Washington County Tennessee*, ed. Joyce and W, Eugene Cox (Johnson City TN: Overmountain Press, 2001), 150-157.

²²⁴ Ibid.

Tennessee's Confederate senator by popular vote.²²⁵ He held this seat from 1862 to 1865 and attended both sessions held.²²⁶

Haynes, while serving in the Confederate government, was placed on several different committees such as Commerce, Engrossment and Enrollment, Patents, Judiciary, and Printing.²²⁷ Haynes chaired the Commerce Committee in the First Congress.²²⁸ Because of his committee assignments, Haynes played a major role in the passage of the Conscription Act of 1862, which mandated that every able bodied man register for the conscript list to possibly be called for duty in the Confederate Army.²²⁹ Haynes voted for the Twenty Slave Clause and tried to implement a clause for militia men.²³⁰ Haynes believed that members of local militias should be exempted from other military service because, they were needed for the protection of their communities. This clause passed along with the Twenty Slave Clause.²³¹

In the first years of the war and while the Confederate Congress was not in session, Haynes and his family remained in Knoxville, but as Union forces neared Knoxville in June 1863 many inhabitants began to panic. Haynes joined hundreds of the town's citizens in the defense of the town.²³² The events were recorded in Confederate Lieutenant Colonel Milton A.

²²⁵ Robert M. McBride and Dan M. McBride, *Biographical Directory of the Tennessee General Assembly: Volume 1 1796-1861* (Nashville, TN: Tennessee State Library and Archives, 1975), 348-349.

²²⁶ Ibid.

²²⁷ Ezra J. Warner, and W. Buck Yearns, *Biographical Register of the Confederate Congress* (Baton Rouge, Louisiana, Louisiana State University Press, 1975), 267-301.

²²⁸ Ibid.

²²⁹ Brig. Gen. Fred C. Ainsworth, Joseph W. Kirkley, *The War of the Rebellion A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies* (Washington D.C, Washington Government Printing Office, 1902),

²³⁰ Ibid.

²³¹ Ibid.

Haynes (no relation) after action report. "Among many citizens who reported to me that day for duty," wrote Haynes, "I must not forget to mention Hon. Landon Carter Haynes."²³³ After the assault on the town Haynes removed his family to Wytheville, Virginia, where they remained until the end of the war. A few months later, in September 1863, Knoxville fell to Union General Burnside. Haynes went on to condemn Confederate President Jefferson Davis for not supporting Knoxville and losing Haynes' home state to the Union advance.²³⁴ Not only was most of Tennessee now under the control of Union forces, but his farm in Haynesville was, too. He represented a fallen state for another two years as the Confederacy struggled along. In the *Knoxville Whig* in 1865 Haynes was reported to be supporting the arming "of negroes in order to achieve the independence of the Confederacy,"²³⁵ but when Petersburg, Virginia, fell to Union attack in April, 1865, the Confederate Government evacuated the Capitol of Richmond and fled to North Carolina.²³⁶ Along with other Confederate leaders, Haynes was captured in Statesville, North Carolina, and instructed to remain in Statesville until pardoned or paroled.²³⁷ Haynes' family joined him from Wytheville, but the Civil War did not end there for the Haynes family.

²³² Haynes, Landon Carter: from the War of the Rebellion: A Compilation of the Official Records, Tipton-Haynes Historic Site Civil War Exhibit Collection, Box 3, Folder 26, Mary Hardin McCown Archives, Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site, Johnson City, Tennessee.

²³³ Ibid.

²³⁴ Ibid.

²³⁵ Haynes, Landon Carter, Temple Papers, Tipton-Haynes Civil War Exhibit Collection Box 2, Folder 16, Mary Hardin McCown Archives, Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site, Johnson City, TN.

²³⁶ Ibid.

²³⁷ Ibid.

In May, 1865, President Andrew Johnson issued an Amnesty Proclamation to former Confederates seeking parole or pardon.²³⁸ Haynes applied for amnesty and on August 2, 1865, traveled to Salisbury N. C., just south of Statesville, to take the oath of allegiance to the United States.²³⁹ Haynes also requested on the same day an interview with President Johnson, but it is unknown if Johnson ever replied.²⁴⁰ Haynes had several society elites assist in his attempt for a pardon, one of whom was Governor William Holden of North Carolina, who wrote the president stating that Haynes has been “leading a very quiet life at Statesville, in this state.”²⁴¹ This letter to the president also enclosed two more letters recommending pardon for Haynes from Chief Justice Richard Pearson and Judge Daniel Fowle.²⁴² After taking the oath of allegiance Haynes was paroled but not yet pardoned. He moved his family to Memphis, Tennessee, in February 1866.²⁴³ Haynes did not return to his home in Washington County, Tennessee, due to the Unionist local government selling it at auction to pay reparations for tax evasion during the war.²⁴⁴

²³⁸ President Johnson, “Image 1 of Prest. Johnson's amnesty proclamation ... Done at the city of Washington, the twenty-ninth day of May, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-five ... Andrew Johnson.” Andrew, Library of Congress, accessed April 09, 2019, <https://www.loc.gov/resource/rbpe.23502500/?st=text>.

²³⁹ Haynes, Landon Carter: Presidential Pardon File (1865-1866), Tipton-Haynes Civil War Exhibit Collection Box 2 Folder 18, Mary Hardin McCown Archives, Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site Johnson City, TN.

²⁴⁰ Ibid.

²⁴¹ Ibid.

²⁴² Ibid.

²⁴³ Letter to Robert Haynes from L.C. Haynes Jr., Haynes Family Collection Series III, Box 6, Folder 17, Mary Hardin McCown Archives, Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site, Johnson City, TN.

²⁴⁴ Deed of Sale, John R. Branner to Robert Haynes November 22, 1867, Tipton-Haynes Historical Association Records Series 1, Box 1, Folder 6, Mary Hardin McCown Archives, Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site, Johnson City, TN

After arriving in Memphis, Haynes joined three other men to create the law firm, Haynes, Heath, Lewis, and Lee Attorneys at Law.²⁴⁵ Haynes continued his career until his death. While working as a partner in the firm, Haynes struggled with post-war life and his old rival William Brownlow, now governor. Because Haynes had been paroled but not pardoned, Brownlow brought Haynes up on charges of treason against the state.²⁴⁶ Brownlow had the federal courts in Knoxville bring the charges against Haynes because of the strong Unionist sentiment in Tennessee's eastern division.²⁴⁷ Haynes worried about what the courts could do to him and his family, so letters were written asking President Johnson to step in on his behalf.²⁴⁸ President Johnson issued Haynes' pardon on June 11, 1866, which formally ended any court proceedings and allowed Haynes to return to his normal daily life in Memphis.²⁴⁹

Haynes had a successful career with his new law business, but on February 17, 1875, he suffered from "congestion of the brain," now referred to as a stroke.²⁵⁰ He did not pull through the stroke and passed most likely at his home. Haynes' body was laid to rest in Elmwood Cemetery. Later, his remains were moved to Jackson, Tennessee, where he was reinterred in 1902 in the Riverside Cemetery alongside several of his kin.²⁵¹ It is said that Landon Haynes and

²⁴⁵ Letter to Robert Haynes from L.C. Haynes Jr., Haynes Family Collection Series III, Box 6, Folder 17, Mary Hardin McCown Archives, Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site, Johnson City, TN.

²⁴⁶ Plead for Pardon, Landon Carter Haynes to President Andrew Johnson, June 6, 1866, Tipton-Haynes Civil War Exhibit Collection Box 2 Folder 18, Mary Hardin McCown Archives, Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site, Johnson City, TN.

²⁴⁷ Ibid.

²⁴⁸ Ibid.

²⁴⁹ Landon Carter Haynes, Jr. to Robert Haynes, August 21, 1866, Haynes Family Collection, Series III, Box 6, Folder 17, Mary Hardin McCown Archives, Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site, Johnson City, TN.

²⁵⁰ Register of Deaths, Shelby County Archives, Memphis TN, 1875, 244, 1875.

²⁵¹ Jonathan K.T. Smith, "Riverside Cemetery Tombstone Inscriptions Scrapbook Part VII," TNGenWeb Project, TNGenWeb Project, 1995, accessed April 18, 2019, <https://www.tngenweb.org/records/madison/cemeteries/riverside/mrc7-08.htm>.

his wife Eleanor both are buried in Riverside in plot 204 ½, but no records can be found on Eleanor's death.²⁵² Haynes' body was supposedly moved to its new resting place due to the Elmwood Cemetery pathways being widened which went over his grave. A photo of a woman believed to be Eleanor has arisen from Bristol, Tennessee, with "Mrs. Landon Carter Haynes" (Eleanor Powell) on the back from the 1880's but nothing to represent that it is her can be added to the picture.²⁵³

The Tipton-Haynes home, known as Green Meadows during Haynes' life there, was sold at auction, possibly to a John Branner.²⁵⁴ Branner was from Jefferson County, Tennessee, and sold the property to Robert Haynes, Landon Haynes' oldest son on November 28, 1867.²⁵⁵ To settle a law suit between the Bank of Knoxville (The Exchange and Deposit Bank) and the Haynes men, Landon and Robert, the Tipton-Haynes home was sold at auction again on February 28, 1871, to a John White.²⁵⁶ White bought the property for \$4,625.00 and the profit from this sell was to settle Robert Haynes' debts for not paying taxes on the home and Landon, still living in Memphis, was brought in on the suit to settle his outstanding debts as well.²⁵⁷ All of the debts were officially settled on May 28, 1871 in the courts, but the payment for the property

²⁵² Ibid., <https://www.tngenweb.org/records/madison/cemeteries/riverside/mrc7-08.htm>.

²⁵³ Image of Eleanor Powell Haynes, Mary Hardin McCown Archival Filing Cabinet 1, Drawer 1, Mary Hardin McCown Archives, Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site, Johnson City, TN.

²⁵⁴ Deed of Sale, John R. Branner to Robert Haynes November 22, 1867, Tipton-Haynes Historical Association Records Series 1, Box 1, Folder 6, Mary Hardin McCown Archives, Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site, Johnson City, TN.

²⁵⁵ Ibid.

²⁵⁶ Deed of Sale, Chancery Court to John White, February 25, 1871, Tipton-Haynes Historical Association Records Series 1, Box 1, Folder 20, Mary Hardin McCown Archives, Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site, Johnson City, TN.

²⁵⁷ Ibid.

was not paid until August 1, 1872.²⁵⁸ John White held ownership of the home until May 1, 1882, when he sold it to Sarah Lavinia Gifford Simerly, who was the niece of Landon Carter Haynes.²⁵⁹ The Simerly family held the home until the State of Tennessee confronted the family and obtained ownership of the property on November 25, 1944.²⁶⁰ After November 1944, the State of Tennessee owned the property, but the Simerly family retained life rights to the home and remained there until their deaths.

Sarah Lavinia Gifford Simerly was the niece of Landon Carter Haynes, the daughter of Haynes sister, Mary Taylor Haynes, who married Lawson Gifford.²⁶¹ Simerly bought the property in 1882 and lived there with her husband Samuel and her two sons, Lawson and Samuel Simerly.²⁶² The family lived at the home before officially buying it from John White and rented it for \$8,400.00.²⁶³ A deed of bond from 1872 represents S.L. Simerly agreeing to the bond price and the exact farm by name of the Haynes farm in one section and Tipton farm in another.²⁶⁴ This is further substantiated through a newspaper clipping about Samuel Simerly, stating that he

²⁵⁸ Ibid.

²⁵⁹ Deed of Sale, John White to Sarah Lavinia Gifford Simerly, May 1, 1882, Tipton-Haynes Historical Association Records Series 1, Box 1, Folder 7, Mary Hardin McCown Archives, Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site, Johnson City, TN.

²⁶⁰ Deed of Sale, Samuel W. Simerly and Lawson Gifford Simerly to State of Tennessee, November 25, 1944, Tipton-Haynes Historical Association Records Series 1, Box 1, Folder 8, Mary Hardin McCown Archives, Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site, Johnson City, TN.

²⁶¹ Sarah Lavinia Gifford Simerly Death Certificate, Simerly Family Papers 1857-1954, Box 1, Folder 5, Mary Hardin McCown Archives, Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site, Johnson City, TN.

²⁶² Deed of Sale, John White to Sarah Lavinia Gifford Simerly, May 1, 1882, Tipton-Haynes Historical Association Records Series 1, Box 1, Folder 7, Mary Hardin McCown Archives, Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site, Johnson City, TN.

²⁶³ 1872 Deed John White to Samuel Simerly, Washington County Deed Book 46, Pages 316-317, Simerly Family Papers, Box 1, Folder 2, Mary Hardin McCown Archives, Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site, Johnson City, TN.

²⁶⁴ Ibid.

was born in the house.²⁶⁵ John White would have just recently purchased the home and allowed the Simerly's to live in their ancestral place until payment could be made for ownership. It took ten years for Sarah Simerly to buy the home from John White, but as many other records represent, they were a well-to-do family and operated a small farm on the property. Letters to and from Samuel Simerly represent many purchases that he made for the property and their livestock.

In 1872 Samuel Simerly was looking into purchasing lots in Elizabethton, possibly for a more permanent solution to a home, but he also purchased a load of iron from H. C. Hodges & Company.²⁶⁶ This company sold groceries and was a general merchandiser of equestrian items, giving credence to already having a working farm and livestock for the family. A second letter from Rhoda Taylor Haynes to Samuel Simerly in 1876 about family news and asking how the crops were growing on the family farm.²⁶⁷ Several letters to or from Samuel speak to work that he was involved in or interested in for his farm but no reference to the exact location. Another portion of the letters from or to Samuel are about his health. The oral stories of the family show that Lawson Simerly lost his legs and suffered several different health issues all related to the disease diabetes. Samuel Simerly died on January 6, 1888 and was buried on the family farm

²⁶⁵ Hamill, Dorothy, "Of Many Things." *Johnson City Press-Chronicle*, May 21, 1961, Tipton-Haynes Historical Association Records, Series VII-A, Box 1, Folder 2, Mary Hardin McCown Archives, Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site, Johnson City, TN.

²⁶⁶ Boyd, J.R., to Samuel W. Simerly, 1872, Tipton-Haynes Archives, Simerly Family Papers, Box 1, Folder 1, Mary Hardin McCown Archives, Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site, Johnson City, TN; Hodges, H.C. to Samuel W. Simerly, 1872, Tipton-Haynes Archives, Simerly Family Papers, Box 1, Folder 1, Mary Hardin McCown Archives, Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site, Johnson City, TN.

²⁶⁷ Haynes, Rhoda Taylor, to Samuel W. Simerly, 1876, Tipton-Haynes Archives, Simerly Family Papers, Box 1, Folder 1, Mary Hardin McCown Archives, Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site, Johnson City, TN.

along with Colonel John Tipton on a hill behind the home.²⁶⁸ Simerly's family continued to live in the house for nearly sixty years.

After the death of Samuel Simerly, archived Simerly records and letters grow fewer. The next major record is of oral traditions of the Simerly family state that Sarah Simerly fell and broke her hip. This is corroborated by a letter from R. C. Hunter of Queens Insurance Company. Hunter wrote "I know what it is to be shut up in the house not well" stating that Sarah has been stuck in the home for a period of time.²⁶⁹ Hunter also wrote, "I am sorry you do not improve as much as you would like to, and as much as your friends would like to see you get out."²⁷⁰ After breaking her hip Sarah lived out the rest of her life in the small room off of the dining room in the ell of the home. She passed on October 12, 1936, from cervical and uterine cancer, which most likely began to form after the fall she had in 1930.²⁷¹

The home and land then passed to her two sons, Samuel and Lawson. From the financial records left from the family and brothers it is believed that Samuel controlled the farm and assets while Lawson held a steady job with the Southern Railroad in Johnson City.²⁷² Samuel also solely inherited the Gifford family home on Cherokee Rd.²⁷³ It is unclear why Lawson did not

²⁶⁸ Samuel Simerly Gravestone/Marker, Tipton-Haynes Cemetery, Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site.

²⁶⁹ Hunter, R.C. to Sarah Simerly, 1930, Tipton-Haynes Archives, Simerly Family Papers, Box 1, Folder 1, Mary Hardin McCown Archives, Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site, Johnson City, TN.

²⁷⁰ Hunter, R.C. to Sarah Simerly, 1930, Tipton-Haynes Archives, Simerly Family Papers, Box 1, Folder 1, Mary Hardin McCown Archives, Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site, Johnson City, TN.

²⁷¹ Sarah Lavinia Gifford Simerly Death Certificate, Simerly Family Papers 1857-1954, Box 1, Folder 5, Mary Hardin McCown Archives, Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site, Johnson City, TN.

²⁷² Mell, J.H. to Lawson Simerly 1944, Simerly Family Papers, Box 1, Folder 1 Mary Hardin McCown Archives, Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site, Johnson City, TN; Johnson City 1917, City Directory, Lawson Simerly Forman, Simerly Family Papers, Box 1, Folder 2 Mary Hardin McCown Archives, Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site, Johnson City, TN.

²⁷³ Samuel Simerly Will, May 31, 1960, Simerly Family Papers, Box 1, Folder 2, Mary Hardin McCown Archives, Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site, Johnson City, TN.

inherit any form of property or stock from his mother or why Samuel became the executor over the property. Also, Samuel working with the finances, rented the Gifford home for \$8.00 a month starting in 1938, and still owned the home at his death.²⁷⁴ He also rented space on his fields for signage and advertisement as seen in a letter from the Miller Poster Advertising Company to Samuel Simerly with payment of \$20.00 for two years of rent.²⁷⁵ Samuel and Lawson also operated a small store in the old Haynes law office. The oral history of the site is that they sold chicken eggs out of the building, but a letter from Mary Hardin McCown to Dr. Dan Robison stated that the two brothers used the law office for grain storage.²⁷⁶ Belief about the Simerly family has been that they were a struggling family and lived in the ell of the home because they lacked funds to sustain the entire home, but the correspondence challenged claims that the family lacked means.

Samuel and Lawson knew the history of their home, and they were willing to give tours to strangers that came visiting. They wished to represent and interpret the importance of the home in relation to the region and the state. A letter of thanks was written to the brothers in 1952 from Mrs. Ethelbert French King for the gracious tour of the property they had given.²⁷⁷ In 1942 Samuel Cole Williams, chairman of the newly reformed Tennessee Historical Commission (THC), wrote a letter requesting that the two brothers sell the home to the State of Tennessee.²⁷⁸

²⁷⁴ Contract between Joe Miller and Samuel Simerly, 1938, Simerly Family Papers, Box 1, Folder 2, Mary Hardin McCown Archives, Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site, Johnson City, TN.

²⁷⁵ Miller Poster Advertising Company to Samuel Simerly, 1945, Simerly Family Papers, Box 1, Folder 1, Mary Hardin McCown Archives, Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site, Johnson City, TN.

²⁷⁶ Mary Hardin McCown to Dr. Dan M. Robison, September 24, 1951, Simerly Family Papers, Box 7, Folder 2, Mary Hardin McCown Archives, Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site, Johnson City, TN.

²⁷⁷ Kincaid, Robert L. to Samuel Simerly, 1954, Tipton-Haynes Archives, Simerly Family Papers, Box 1, Folder 1, Mary Hardin McCown Archives, Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site, Johnson City, TN.

²⁷⁸ Tennessee Historical Commission Meeting Minutes, Book 1940-1949, April 24, 1944, Pages 1-2, Clover Bottom Mansion, Lebanon, Tennessee.

The letter went unanswered. Williams stated in the THC minutes that if the letter remain unanswered then an act to condemn the home be put forth.²⁷⁹ On behalf of the THC, Williams again wrote the brothers to inform them that their home would be condemned and that they would have to vacate the premises if they failed to reply to his letter.²⁸⁰ Both Samuel and Lawson replied to the letter but no THC response can be found. Williams wrote Mary Hardin McCown on March 7, 1944, stating “The State has the power, under a recent act of the Legislature, to condemn so much of the property as it desires; but I am hopeful that condemnation proceedings may be avoided, and a mutually satisfactory solution reached by agreement....” He continued, “My thought was that the old people could in this way have the use of the money, paid by the State, and they live in comparative ease. How much acreage, the whole or a part, could be discussed and agreed upon. Personally, I would advise the Commission and the State to conform to the wishes of such occupants in so far as it is feasible.”²⁸¹ Williams felt that the state had the right to protect its history but also the two brothers had the right to defend their home and he hoped that a simple and agreeable arrangement could be met. Later that same year the State of Tennessee officially acquired the historic home and 17.77 acers surrounding the historic grounds.

As Tipton-Haynes moved toward state ownership, the Interpretation of the site began to build upon the first owners of the home. In the beginning, as Williams moved to purchase the home, a group of descendants of the Tipton family began to take interest in restoring the home and opening it to educate the public on their ancestors’ wondrous achievements throughout pre and early Tennessee history. As one can see there is much more history at Tipton-Haynes to be

²⁷⁹ Ibid.

²⁸⁰ Ibid.

²⁸¹ Samuel C. Williams to Mary Hardin McCown, March 7, 1944, Mary Hardin McCown Collection, Box 7, Folder 1, Mary Hardin McCown Archives, Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site, Johnson City, TN.

interpreted than just of one family but to understand how the inclusion of all the site's owners achievements were added one must understand the many influential factors that the Tipton-Haynes Historical Association has faced over its fifty-five years of existence. These internal and external influences begin before the Association was created and continue to the current day as the sites strives to remain a vital educational center for the people of the East Tennessee region, Tennessee, and the United States.

CHAPTER 3. VULNERABILITY OF INTERPRETATION

As the Tennessee Historical Commission (THC) proceeded in purchasing the Simerly home place, they knew that drastic measures would have to be taken to restore the property. Also, the THC would need a governing body to oversee the planning and restoration of the home. This process was taken on by a group of descendants of the first owner of the property, Colonel John Tipton.²⁸² The new Association would oversee the work done on site, supervise the day-to-day operations, and establish a working interpretation of the history of the site and its owners. Upon completion of restoration of the site in 1971 by the first Association members, they were tasked with the creation of a historical interpretation of the site's inhabitants. The Association's internal influence on the site's interpretation successfully created multiple interpretations which drastically favored the life of Colonel John Tipton, their ancestor. The historical interpretation of the Haynes or even the lives of the Simerly families were overtly ignored for the importance of the Tipton family and their actions in the creation of the State and desire of the Association to elevate the history of Colonel Tipton. It was not until new Association members joined the board, that were not descendants, included new research into the interpretation, did the history begin to change.

As new Association members were added to the board and others passed away or rolled off, new ideas and opinions began to alter the interpretation of the site. These interactions of opinions on historic sites become influences on the future vision of the site and how it is perceived by the public, becoming internal and external influences. Internal and external forces interact with the representation of the historical fact of Tipton-Haynes and alter the path of the site's interpretation. Throughout the early years of the Tipton-Haynes Historical Association

²⁸² Charter Members, Mary Hardin McCown Collection, Box 7 Folder 2, Mary Hardin McCown Archives, Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site, Johnson City, TN.

many influences aided the creation of the interpretation such as archeology, external researchers of the site's history, and the Association members themselves.²⁸³ These influences can be seen throughout the Association's history altering the Association's interpretation for the betterment of the site.

Preservation of the Tipton-Haynes home began in 1944 when the Tennessee Historical Commission (THC) acquired the grounds and buildings. The first time Tipton-Haynes was mentioned in the THC meeting minutes was on November 8, 1943, when Governor Prentice Cooper requested that the Cobb house (current day Rocky Mount State Historic Site in Piney Flats, TN) and Tipton-Haynes be purchased by the state.²⁸⁴ The minutes also mention that the Tipton-Haynes home was one of the oldest houses standing in the state.²⁸⁵ Colonel John Tipton was a person of impact in the establishment of Tennessee and Governor Cooper wanted to protect the historical value of Tipton's home. On March 7, 1944, Samuel Cole Williams of the executive board of the THC wrote a letter to Mary Hardin McCown, a historian of Washington County, discussing the state's right to condemn the home and remove the current inhabitants.²⁸⁶ Williams felt that the THC should acquire the home by purchase or by condemnation but wanted to leave the current inhabitants in the home for the remainder of their natural lives. On March 23, 1944, the THC sent a letter to the Simerly brothers, who had lived in the home since 1871,

²⁸³ Dr. Boyd, Archaeological Program Dr. Boyd, Audio Cassette Collection, Audio Cassette Collection Box 1, Tape 5, Mary Hardin McCown Archives, Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site.

²⁸⁴ Tennessee Historical Commission Meeting Minutes, Book 1940-1949, November 8, 1943, page 4, Clover Bottom Mansion, Lebanon, TN.

²⁸⁵ Ibid.

²⁸⁶ Samuel Cole Williams to Mary Hardin McCown, March 7, 1944, Mary Hardin McCown Collection, Box 7, Folder 1, Mary Hardin McCown Archives, Johnson City Tennessee.

asking that the state be allowed to purchase the property.²⁸⁷ The THC letter went unanswered. A second letter, this time from Tennessee Assistant Attorney General Robert Kennerly, informed the brothers that the THC wanted to acquire the home and that the attorney general's office was prepared to condemn the property if the Simerly brothers refused to sell.²⁸⁸ Lawson and Samuel Simerly then employed Thad Cox, a Johnson City attorney, to answer the THC and agreed to sell the property in as many acres as they wished.²⁸⁹ With the approval of the brothers the THC was able to take their first steps to preserve the site for generations to come.

On May 29, 1944, Samuel Cole Williams, as President of the THC, had 30.7 acres of the Simerly property surveyed along with a small adjoining piece of land of .46 acres along the road.²⁹⁰ The commission approved the purchase of only 17.77 acres of the Simerly property and all of the adjoining property surveyed. It is unclear why the Commission only bought half the grounds surveyed, other than saving money at the time. Governor Prentice Cooper of Tennessee allocated \$8,900 to help acquire the home.²⁹¹ The state officially bought the 17.77 acres on November 25, 1944 for \$7,552.25 and the adjoining property for \$200.00 on January 1, 1945.²⁹² The Simerly's then sold their remaining land to J. Clinton Garland. The THC purchased the site as a historic shrine and to memorialize the historical past of East Tennessee. In a memorandum

²⁸⁷ Samuel and Lawson Simerly from Robert T. Kennerly, May 3, 1944, Tipton-Haynes Historical Association Records, Series IV – A, Folder 1, Mary Hardin McCown Archives, Johnson City Tennessee.

²⁸⁸ Ibid.

²⁸⁹ Samuel and Lawson Simerly to Robert T. Kennerly, May 8, 1944, Tipton-Haynes Historical Association Records, Series IV – A, Folder 1, Mary Hardin McCown Archives, Johnson City Tennessee.

²⁹⁰ Robert T. Kennerly to Samuel Cole Williams, May 17, 1944, Tipton-Haynes Historical Association Records, Series IV – A, Folder 1, Mary Hardin McCown Archives, Johnson City Tennessee.

²⁹¹ Judge Samuel Cole Williams from Robert T. Kennerly, July 3, 1944, Tipton-Haynes Historical Association Records, Series IV – A, Folder 1, Mary Hardin McCown Archives, Johnson City Tennessee.

²⁹² Mary Hardin McCown to Mrs. Mary U. Rothrock, October 18, 1951, Mary Hardin McCown Collection, Box 7 Folder 2, Mary Hardin McCown Archives, Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site Johnson City, TN.

listing the terms of the Simerly brothers' sale of land to the state, the Simerly brothers had life rights to the house; however, they allowed the THC to plant bushes and trees around the grounds, and to restore the spring house at the bottom of the hill south of the home.²⁹³

In 1945 the THC approved the placement of a historical monument on the grounds of the site. Purchasing the site was the first step to the site's preservation and the monument became the second to record the site's history in stone. Each side of the monument illustrates specific eras of history that the site represents. The Society of Colonial Dames of Tennessee, Tennessee Society Daughters of the American Revolution, Tennessee Society United States Daughters of the War of 1812, and the United Daughters of the Confederacy were tasked with raising \$300.00 from each group to establish the monument and the THC would cover the remainder of the cost.²⁹⁴ On October 12, 1946, an unveiling ceremony was held to recognize the hard work of the four societies and the THC in preserving each era's history that was inscribed on each side the monument.²⁹⁵ In a September 24, 1951, letter to Dr. Dan Robinson, Mary Hardin McCown, both now a part of the THC, stated that the Simerly brothers were not allowing anyone in the front part of the home.²⁹⁶ The Simerly brothers did have the home repainted and by doing the brothers were able to bring the appearance of the home back to its original white coloring.²⁹⁷ The letter

²⁹³ Memorandum signed by Thad Cox and Samuel Cole Williams, June 12, 1944, Tipton-Haynes Historical Association Records, Series IV – A, Folder 1, Mary Hardin McCown Archives, Johnson City Tennessee.

²⁹⁴ Samuel Cole Williams to Mary Hardin McCown, August 28, 1945, Mary Hardin McCown Collection, Box 7 Folder 1, Mary Hardin McCown Archives, Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site, Johnson City TN.

²⁹⁵ "Plans Complete for Unveiling of Tipton-Haynes Monument." *Johnson City Press-Chronicles*, January 25, 2020, Tipton-Haynes Historical Association Records, Series VII-A, Box 1, Folder 1, Mary Hardin McCown Archives, Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site, Johnson City, TN.

²⁹⁶ Mary Hardin McCown to Dan M. Robison, September 24, 1951, Mary Hardin McCown Collection Box 7, Folder 2, Mary Hardin McCown Archives, Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site, Johnson City, TN.

²⁹⁷ Mary Hardin McCown to Dan M. Robison, September 24, 1951, Mary Hardin McCown Collection Box 7, Folder 2, Mary Hardin McCown Archives, Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site, Johnson City, TN.

seems to have a bit of an issue with the painting of the home but McCown then states that they were within their rights to do so without state approval.

In several of the early 1950s-60's letters in the Tipton-Haynes archives, Mary Hardin McCown along with Dr. Robinson and others refer to the home as a shrine.²⁹⁸ It was to memorialize the history of the site and if any name other than the Tipton-Haynes home or Tipton-Haynes shrine was given then it was surely corrected. One such correction occurred in 1951 when McCown chastised a Mrs. Mary Rothrock for referring to the home as the "Haynes home" and stated that it is the Tipton-Haynes home because Colonel Tipton built it.²⁹⁹ McCown became a major proponent for the site and its preservation. She began working on collecting all documents that related to the purchase of the site and recorded development of the site and grounds in many of her letters. In many letters, McCown revealed restoration of the site's spring house and refurbishment of the 1946 monument to be among her preservation priorities.³⁰⁰ The monument had fallen into disrepair and needed cleaning. She called for the state highway department to take over the monument repairs and the grounds in the monument's vicinity.³⁰¹ The highway department then created a small parking space around the monument, complete

²⁹⁸ State Library and Archivist Dan M. Robison to Mrs. L. W. McCown, September 17, 1951, Mary Hardin McCown Collection Box 7, Folder 2, Mary Hardin McCown Archives, Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site, Johnson City, TN.

²⁹⁹ Mary Hardin McCown to Dan M. Robison, September 24, 1951, Mary Hardin McCown Collection Box 7, Folder 2, Mary Hardin McCown Archives, Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site, Johnson City, TN.

³⁰⁰ Letters between Mary U. Rothrock, Mary Hardin McCown, and Dr. R.L. Kincaid, October 24, 1951 – December 10, 1951, Mary Hardin McCown Collection, Box 7, Folder 2, Mary Hardin McCown Archives, Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site, Johnson City, TN.

³⁰¹ Mary U. Rothrock to Mrs. L.W. McCown and Dr. R.L. Kincaid, October 24, 1951, Mary Hardin McCown Collection, Box 7, Folder 2, Mary Hardin McCown Archives, Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site, Johnson City, TN.

with picnic tables so travelers could stop and enjoy the history and beauty of the site.³⁰² By creating this stop on the outside of the main gate the public could enjoy the site from a distance. No one was allowed on the site without written permission from the brothers for visits unless they were members of the THC board.

McCown turned to the spring house as the first restoration project to be undertaken, which was in dire need of repair. She contacted several local groups and people, such as the Johnson City Highway Garage and McCown's acquaintance Mr. Jeff Hartley, a stone mason, to raise funds for the construction and to gather advice about how to accomplish the work.³⁰³ After almost ten years of the state owning the property, the first building restoration was underway. McCown and an expert mason requested that the spring house walls be shored up using cut stone, which was received from the local rail yard, and that the spring be dug out.³⁰⁴ McCown finished the restoration after requesting \$750.00 from the THC to purchase materials and pay the mason in 1953.³⁰⁵

Mary Hardin McCown had two motivations for aiding the restoration of the Tipton-Haynes home place. A member of the Tennessee Historical Commission's governing board in 1953, McCown shared the THC's commitment to preserve early Tennessee history through landmarks, museums, and homes such as Tipton-Haynes. However, she was also a descendant of

³⁰² Mary U. Rothrock to Mrs. L.W. McCown and Dr. R.L. Kincaid, October 24, 1951, Mary Hardin McCown Collection, Box 7, Folder 2, Mary Hardin McCown Archives, Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site, Johnson City, TN.

³⁰³ Collection of Letters between Mary U. Rothrock, Mary Hardin McCown, and Dr. R.L. Kinkaid, October 24, 1951 – December 10, 1951, Mary Hardin McCown Collection, Box 7, Folder 2, Mary Hardin McCown Archives, Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site, Johnson City, TN.

³⁰⁴ Collection of Letters between Mary U. Rothrock, Mary Hardin McCown, and Dr. R.L. Kinkaid, February 13, 1952-October 13, 1953, Mary Hardin McCown Collection, Box 7, Folder 3-4, Mary Hardin McCown Archives, Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site, Johnson City, TN.

³⁰⁵ Mary U. Rothrock to Mrs. L.W. McCown, May 12, 1952, Mary Hardin McCown Collection, Box 7, Folder 3, Mary Hardin McCown Archives, Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site, Johnson City, TN.

the Tipton family. She took it upon herself to restore her family's heritage and expand the knowledge of the Tipton family's involvement in the creation of Tennessee. Though she was limited by the memorandum signed between the Simerlys' and the THC, McCown continued to research her family's history and how each of her ancestors aided the state through public life or through military service. All the information she collected was to be used as the interpretation of the site when it opened to the public. By contacting other descendants, McCown created a basis for research and interpretive support. With the completion of the spring house and many descendants bannin together to preserve the home, creating a group or organization became a growing concern to run the site after the passing of the Simerly brothers.³⁰⁶

It was another nine years before this concern would be warranted, but in a span of only five days in November 1962, the State of Tennessee became the rightful owners of the Tipton-Haynes home and just over seventeen acres of the surrounding lands.³⁰⁷ In 1962 Sam Simerly had been moved to a rest home facility and in late 1962 both Simerly brothers' health declined. Lawson's decline in health was in part due to his loss of his legs one in 1948 and the other in 1958, which was speculated to be from diabetes.³⁰⁸ Upon being asked what the loss of his legs was from he stated in an article "I'd have to blow it on the flute, I couldn't pronounce it."³⁰⁹ Lawson remained in the home and watched over the grounds as he had done all his life, but in his

³⁰⁶ Mrs. L. W. McCown and Dr. R. L. Kincaid from Mary U. Rothrock 2, October 24, 1951, Box 7, Folder 2, Mary Hardin McCown Collection, Mary Hardin McCown Archives, Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site, Johnson City, TN.

³⁰⁷ Lawson G. Simerly, November 16, 1962, Grave Marker, Tipton-Haynes Cemetery, Johnson City, Washington County, Tennessee.

³⁰⁸ Dr. Lee K. Gibson to Lawson Simerly, October 8, 1948, Simerly Family Papers 1857-1954, Box 1, Folder 1, Mary Hardin McCown Archives, Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site, Johnson City, TN.

³⁰⁹ Hamill, Dorothy, "Of Many Things." *Johnson City Press-Chronicle*, May 21, 1961, Series VII-A, Box 1, Folder 2, Tipton-Haynes Historical Association Records, Mary Hardin McCown Archives, Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site, Johnson City, TN.

older age he had taken on some help from J. Clinton Garland, their next-door neighbor.³¹⁰ On November 16, 1962, Lawson passed away in the rest home, but the staff chose not to tell Samuel for fear it would break his spirit.³¹¹ Unaware that his brother had passed, Samuel died on November 21, 1962, five days after his brother.³¹²

No longer limited by the agreement with the Simerlys, the state was able to move forward with the restoration of the property, but both the brothers had wills to settle their estates. Both their wills settled their debts and bequeathed small amounts of money to people that had helped them in their older ages but all of their “tangible items” were bequeathed to J. Clinton Garland.³¹³ He became sole owner of all the items within the home and the outbuildings while the state owned the structures. Dr. Robert L. Kincaid, President of Lincoln Memorial University in 1951 and a member of the THC wrote a letter to Mary U. Rothrock and Mrs. McCown speaking of a report on the Tipton-Haynes home and recommending that the THC request that some items from the home be bequeathed to the state after the brothers’ passing. Because the brothers’ wills stated that their tangible items were to go to Garland, this recommendation must never have come to fruition.³¹⁴ However, some items that belonged to the brothers still remain in

³¹⁰ Ibid.

³¹¹ Lawson G. Simerly, November 16, 1962, Grave Marker, Tipton-Haynes Cemetery, Johnson City, Washington County, Tennessee.

³¹² Samuel Simerly, November 21, 1962, Grave Marker, Tipton-Haynes Cemetery, Johnson City, Washington County, Tennessee.

³¹³ Lawson G. Simerly, May 17, 1961, Last Will and Testament of Lawson G. Simerly, Box 1, Folder 2, Simerly Family Papers 1857-1954, Mary Hardin McCown Archives, Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site, Johnson City, TN.

³¹⁴ Robert L. Kincaid to Mary U. Rothrock and L.W. McCown, November 26, 1951, Box 7, Folder 2, Mary Hardin McCown Collection, Mary Hardin McCown Archives, Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site, Johnson City, TN.

the home today, due to Garland descendants donating back to the site.³¹⁵ Garland, after the passing of the brothers, was asked to become the caretaker of the home and property because he lived so close and now all the items in the buildings belonged to him.³¹⁶ He accepted the position and asked if he could store his hay in the barn, which the state agreed to allow. He was also given a small monthly stipend of \$25.00 for his work on the grounds.³¹⁷

In 1963 several community groups, the THC, and Mrs. McCown came together to discuss the direction of the restoration projects for the site. The attendees formed a coalition that became the Tipton-Haynes Restoration Association.³¹⁸ This group was tasked with planning the preservation of the grounds and interpret the history of the site. In their first year they had a group by the name of J. E. Green Company of Johnson City come out and assess the buildings.³¹⁹ The Association contracted J. E. Green Company to restore the main house, barn, corncrib, and law office, along with work on the grounds to make the site accessible.³²⁰ The work was to cost the THC and the Restoration Association a total of \$48,730.00, but in a letter from the THC executive secretary, James W. Moody, to Mary McCown, Moody stated that the Association was

³¹⁵ Artifacts Collections Filing Cabinet 1, Row 4, Jamie McGill, June 19, 2018, Mary Harding McCown Archives, Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site, Johnson City, TN.

³¹⁶ Contract Between the Tennessee Historical Commission and Mr. Clinton Garland, January 4, 1963, Tipton-Haynes Historical Association Records, Series IV, Box 3, Folder 3, Mary Hardin McCown Archives, Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site, Johnson City, TN.

³¹⁷ Ibid.

³¹⁸ "Restoration Planned for Historic House." *Johnson City Press-Chronicles*, December 1, 1963, Tipton-Haynes Historical Association Records, Series VII-A, Box 1, Folder 4, Mary Hardin McCown Archives, Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site, Johnson City, TN.

³¹⁹ James W. Moody, Jr. to Mrs. L.W. McCown, February 14, 1964, Mary Hardin McCown Collection, Box 7 Folder 12, Mary Hardin McCown Archives, Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site, Johnson City, TN.

³²⁰ J.E. Green Company to Mrs. L.W. McCown, April 10, 1964, General Contractors Estimate, Mary Hardin McCown Collection, Box 7 Folder 12, Mary Hardin McCown Archives, Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site, Johnson City, TN.

to only request \$25,000.00 for the restoration work.^{321 322} This low acquisition of money postponed the project for a later date until ample amounts of funds could be raised.

As the Restoration Association struggled to proceed, the state's first issues with Garland arose. Copper wiring had been placed on each of the four historic elm trees to protect them from lightning strikes but it had been stolen "again."³²³ After receiving no reply to a first letter to Garland, Mr. Moody wrote a second letter requesting information about the theft and about the layout of the new sub-division that Garland was creating adjacent to the Tipton-Haynes property.³²⁴ Specifically, Moody asked where the right-of-way was to be placed through the subdivision for accessing the Tipton-Haynes Cemetery.³²⁵ In his reply, Garland offered no apology for the stolen wire or any information about the new sub-division.³²⁶ In a subsequent letter to Mrs. McCown, Moody then inquired if she could look over the house and inquire about the stolen wire.³²⁷ In her reply to Moody, McCown asserted that Mr. Garland was getting richer and richer off of his land sales in the subdivision. She seems to despise the man for his not doing anything for the property and getting paid to be its caretaker. She continued in several more letters to discuss the property and the restoration that needed to be completed along with her

³²¹ Ibid.

³²² James W. Moody to Mrs. L.W. McCown, April 16, 1964, Mary Hardin McCown Collection, Box 7 Folder 12, Mary Hardin McCown Archives, Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site, Johnson City, TN.

³²³ James W. Moody to Clinton Garland, July 6, 1964, Mary Hardin McCown Collection, Box 7 Folder 12, Mary Hardin McCown Archives, Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site, Johnson City, TN.

³²⁴ James W. Moody to Clinton Garland, July 31, 1964, Mary Hardin McCown Collection, Box 7 Folder 12, Mary Hardin McCown Archives, Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site, Johnson City, TN.

³²⁵ Ibid.

³²⁶ Clinton Garland to James W. Moody, Jr, August 7, 1964, Mary Hardin McCown Collection Box 7, Folder 12, Mary Hardin McCown Archives, Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site, Johnson City, TN.

³²⁷ James W. Moody to Mrs. L.W. McCown, August 11, 1964, Mary Hardin McCown Collection, Box 3, Folder 12, Mary Hardin McCown Archives, Johnson City, TN.

feelings towards Mr. Garland.³²⁸ The struggle with Garland over upkeep and a 1964 storm prevented the Restoration Association from proceeding with any of their restoration plans. Instead, they focused on the storm damage at hand.³²⁹

While dealing with the 1964 storm damage, the THC received a letter from the city of Johnson City about the Tipton-Haynes home. In the letter, city representatives “made an offer to the state to use the property for a school bus garage and service area.”³³⁰ McCown learned of this letter and quickly began calling all interested parties in the property for them to show support for the site and set a meeting some time before Christmas of the that same year to halt the request of the city.³³¹

On November 30, 1964, representatives of the THC, members of the Restoration Association, and several local community members met to establish goals and plans for the restoration of the site, and to halt the advancement of the offer made to the state.³³² By the time of the meeting, storms had broken out several windows and even ripped the original front door from the home.³³³ This meeting saw the creation of the Tipton-Haynes Historical Association that runs the site to the current day, and on February 22, the following year elections were held

³²⁸ Mary Hardin McCown to Mr. Moody, September 5, 1964, Mary Hardin McCown Collection Box 7, Folder 12, Mary Hardin McCown Archives, Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site, Johnson City, TN.

³²⁹ Ibid.

³³⁰ Ray Stahl, “Tipton-Haynes Nuggets of History.” *Tipton-Haynes Link*, Spring 1989, Tipton-Haynes Historical Association Records, Series II A-B-C, Box 2, Folder II-B:10, Mary Hardin McCown Archives, Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site, Johnson City, TN.

³³¹ Mary Hardin McCown to James W. Moddy, November 21, 1964, Mary Hardin McCown Collection, Box 3 Folder 12, Mary Hardin McCown Archives, Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site, Johnson City, TN.

³³² Ray Stahl, “Tipton-Haynes Nuggets of History.” *Tipton-Haynes Link*, Spring 1989, Tipton-Haynes Historical Association Records, Series II A-B-C, Box 2, Folder II-B:10, Mary Hardin McCown Archives, Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site, Johnson City, TN.

³³³ Mary Hardin McCown to Mr. Moody, September 5, 1964, Mary Hardin McCown Collection Box 7, Folder 12, Mary Hardin McCown Archives, Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site, Johnson City, TN.

for the new Association.³³⁴ Accepted on January 14, 1965, the charter for the Tipton-Haynes Historical Association Incorporated was accepted, allowing the THC to begin transferring responsibilities of the site to them.³³⁵ Restoration work would now go through the Association for approval and work would commence under their observation. On June 30, 1965, Clinton Garland was sacked from his position as caretaker, which was taken over by Association members and his payment of \$25.00 went towards site maintenance.³³⁶ Also, within this year the Association had no trouble getting monetary donations to the site for its extensive restoration plan. All but one of the founding members of the Association were Tipton descendants and strove to see their ancestral home in its pristine condition. In the subsequent years the Association and the THC began to accomplish the hard task of restoring the home and strove to open the grounds to the public. The J. E. Green Company was again contracted for the site's work that they had bid on a few years earlier and were allowed to begin work. The roofs of all the buildings and the main house became the center of the restoration.³³⁷ The main house required several types of work from the floors and foundations to painting and sanding; the

³³⁴ Gertrude Boyd Deakins, Mary Hardin McCown, to Mr. Moody, Mary Hardin McCown Collection Box 7, Folder 13, Mary Hardin McCown Archives, Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site, Johnson City, TN.

³³⁵ Tipton-Haynes Historical Association Charter, January 12, 1965, Tipton-Haynes Historical Association Records, Series 1, Box 1, Folder 2, Mary Hardin McCown Archives, Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site

³³⁶ Letter from Executive Secretary James Moody to Mrs. T. E. Deakins, March 9, 1965, Mary Hardin McCown Collection, Box 7 Folder 13, Mary Hardin McCown Archives, Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site.

³³⁷ *The Courier*, Published by the Tennessee Historical Commission, Vol. III, No. I, January 1966. Mary Hardin McCown Collection, Box 7 Folder 14, Mary Hardin McCown Archives, Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site.

group even removed one of the three chimneys from the ell of the home.³³⁸ This restoration project took a few years to complete, but in 1971 the site officially opened to the public.³³⁹

Mrs. McCown continued researching the Tipton family and all that the family accomplished adding the information to the site's records and interpretation. In a letter from McCown to the new board of directors for the Association on February 28, 1965, she stated that Garland was selling his lots in the new subdivision neighboring the historic site for \$2,000 to \$2,500 and asked the board to think of the value of the site, not just in land but in historic value.³⁴⁰ She tried to connect the board to the site and encouraged them to be more dedicated because she wanted to unite the board against the growing encroachment of the community. Garland continued to be mentioned throughout the early records of the Association because he stored his hay in the barn even after being asked to step down from his position as caretaker. In 1965 Garland offered to sell the Association logs from the old Hardin home to replace needed logs in the ell of the historic Tipton-Haynes home.³⁴¹ McCown strongly stated that they wanted gifts not purchases and seemed to disregard Garland's offer entirely.³⁴² All the hardship between McCown and Garland came to a head in late 1966 after it became clear that Garland had allowed houses to be built in his subdivision on the state-owned right-of-way to the cemetery where Colonel John Tipton and the Simerly family were buried. Both sides had to acquire legal counsel

³³⁸ *The Courier*, Published by the Tennessee Historical Commission, Vol. III, No. I, January 1966. Mary Hardin McCown Collection, Box 7 Folder 14, Mary Hardin McCown Archives, Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site.

³³⁹ Tipton-Haynes Historical Association Invitation, April 17, 1971, Mary Hardin McCown Collection, Box, 8, Folder 13, Mary Hardin McCown Archives, Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site, Johnson City, TN.

³⁴⁰ Letter from Mary Hardin McCown to the Board of Directors, February 28, 1965, Mary Hardin McCown Collection, Box 7 Folder 13, Mary Hardin McCown Archives, Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site.

³⁴¹ Letter from Mary Hardin McCown to Field Representative of the THC Dennis T. Lawson, October 12, 1965, Mary Hardin McCown Collection, Box 7 Folder 13, Mary Hardin McCown Archives, Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site Johnson City, TN.

³⁴² *Ibid.*

to help settle the dispute over the encroachment.³⁴³ On October 14, 1966, Garland's counsel, William Guinn, proposed that the two parties exchange quitclaims to the other. This dispute continued into the following year.³⁴⁴

On June 3, 1967, McCown wrote Sam B. Smith, chairman of the THC, of the meeting to take place that week between McCown, Garland, and each party's lawyer to discuss the property issue in further detail. She expressed hope that Smith could attend.³⁴⁵ Clearly frustrated by Garland's disregard for the state's right-of-way, McCown stated that Garland “usurped” the deeds held by the state and she was actively tracking down information on the right-of-way.³⁴⁶ Garland, she continued, failed to use the plot description that was sent to the THC some years prior and had created a new one which caused the homes to be built on state property.³⁴⁷ McCown informed Smith of every stipulation that Garland had broken before the meeting was to take place.

While the parties met June 7, 1967, to discuss the situation, no record exists of what transpired.³⁴⁸ However, as a June 19 letter from Garland's lawyer, Quinn, to Chairman Smith reveals, Garland and the THC had come to a conclusion that the quitclaims were to be the best

³⁴³ Mary Hardin McCown to Sam B. Smith, June 3, 1967, Mary Hardin McCown Collection, Box 7 Folder 15, Mary Hardin McCown Archives, Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site Johnson City, TN.

³⁴⁴ William F. Quinn to Mr. James W. Moody, Jr, October 14, 1966, 3, Tipton-Haynes Historical Association Records, Series IV, Box 1, Folder 4, Mary Hardin McCown Archives, Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site, Johnson City, TN.

³⁴⁵ Mary Hardin McCown to Sam B. Smith, June 3, 1967, Mary Hardin McCown Collection, Box 7 Folder 15, Mary Hardin McCown Archives, Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site Johnson City, TN.

³⁴⁶ *Ibid.*

³⁴⁷ *Ibid.*

³⁴⁸ *Ibid.*

solution.³⁴⁹ The state would quitclaim the easement to Garland while Garland was to quitclaim lot number eight directly behind the cemetery.³⁵⁰ This was to protect the view towards the site but would alter the original purchase from the Simerly brothers' tract number two. In the letter to Smith, Quinn listed the new tract's description to be placed in the deed books. Quinn further states that "this conveyance would be in full settlement of all claims against Mr. and Mrs. Garland."³⁵¹ The matter between the Garlands, the THC, and the Association was closed later that year. Garland went basically un-heard from for the following three years. He resurfaced as the Association was contemplating the construction of an amphitheater for the play "The Lost State of Franklin."³⁵² Garland appeared before the Johnson City Planning Commission to argue that the amphitheater's construction would increase traffic flow through his neighborhood.³⁵³ Both the THC and the Johnson City Planning Commission accepted the Associations request but no such amphitheater was built.³⁵⁴

With such actions being enacted on the site by Clinton Garland and the Association, the physical interpretation of the site was forced to change. By closing off access to the cemetery by building homes on the right-of-way, unless entering the neighborhood itself, Garland successfully altered the way the site could have interpreted Tipton history. The right-of-way would have allowed access for patrons to visit the grave of Colonel Tipton while also giving a

³⁴⁹ William F. Quinn to Dr. Sam B. Smith, Chairman, June 19, 1967, Mary Hardin McCown Collection, Box 7 Folder 15, Mary Hardin McCown Archives, Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site Johnson City, TN.

³⁵⁰ Ibid.

³⁵¹ Ibid.

³⁵² Charles Justice to Mrs. Ray Stahl, President, December 11, 1970, Tipton-Haynes Historical Association Records, Series III, Box 1, Folder 7, Mary Hardin McCown Archives, Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site, Johnson City, TN.

³⁵³ Ibid.

³⁵⁴ Ibid.

talking point for the tour guide to interpret the grounds. As an internal influence, McCown strove to keep the site intact and the grounds as agreed upon. Her dedication led her to call on the board for action and to alter their understanding of the site as not just a piece of land but also as a significant piece of history that should be protected, no matter if it was a small stretch of land or not. Through hers and the Associations tenacity the agreement of the back lot was reached. These influences may have been small in terms of historical interpretation but through choice history can be forgotten or built over.

McCown and other Association members continued to research into the Tipton family and the home to expand on the legacy of their ancestors and the interpretive value of the site. A letter from Dennis T. Lawson, THC field representative, to Mrs. McCown, Lawson gave a list of secondary source work that he came across containing information on the site that could aid McCown in her research.³⁵⁵ All but one of the listed sources pertained to the Tipton era of the home while another was the master's thesis by James W. Bellamy on Landon Cater Haynes' political career.³⁵⁶ He further stated that he will continue his search for more records to aid in the development of the site's history and restoration of the site.³⁵⁷ In what seems to be an October 1 response letter to Lawson, McCown stated that more research needed to be completed on the Haynes era of the home and Haynes himself, for she had very little on his time in the home.³⁵⁸ Not much research at this time had been completed on the Haynes family and their time in the home other than the thesis. The only decision that represented any or part of the Haynes family

³⁵⁵ Letter from Field Representative of the THC Dennis T. Lawson to Mary Hardin McCown, September 27, 1965, Mary Hardin McCown Collection, Box 7 Folder 13, Mary Hardin McCown Archives, Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site Johnson City TN.

³⁵⁶ Ibid.

³⁵⁷ Ibid.

³⁵⁸ Ibid.

was regarding the main house and the period of restoration to the antebellum era. This was when the Haynes family were the inhabitants of the home. made in honor of Haynes at this time was during restoration of the house is it was to be restored to the antebellum era, during which Haynes was the home's inhabitant.³⁵⁹ This was decided due to the THC and the Association wishing to restore the home as it was standing and not remove any key parts of the structure.³⁶⁰

The Association for years had been working to restore the site and its structures to represent the days of the Tipton family and wished to interpret the site as such. The members of the Association created brochures and written tours to interpret the site's history for visitors to use as they moved through the site. Those interpretations were to aid the Association in educating the public on the site and influencing visitors' thoughts of the site's vital role in the establishment of Tennessee. Influence on the historical interpretation, such as the Association members elevation of one owner of the historic site's history over another and the exclusion of history, can be seen throughout the early brochures. This exclusion represented how influence internal or external can alter the educational value and expansion of history to a site's visitors by a choice of one over another.

Completed in 1967 before the site opened to the public, the site's first brochure helped to educate the community about the site's historical significance to the region and called for aid in raising funds to finish the site's restoration.³⁶¹ To educate the public on the site's significance the Association chose to interpret the life of Colonel John Tipton and his time in the State of

³⁵⁹ Inspection of Tipton-Haynes Home by Charles W. Warterfield, A.I.A., Architect, Nashville TN 21, July 1967, Tipton-Haynes Historical Association Records, Box 1, Series VI, Folder 14, Mary Hardin McCown Archives, Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site Johnson City TN.

³⁶⁰ Tipton-Haynes Historical Association to the Tennessee Historical Commission, Undated, Mary Hardin McCown Collection, Box 7 Folder 13, Mary Hardin McCown Archives, Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site Johnson City TN.

³⁶¹ "The Tipton-Haynes Farm Brochure," Tipton-Haynes Historical Association Records Series II-A-B-C, Box 2, Folder 8, Mary Hardin McCown Archives, Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site Johnson City TN.

Franklin movement.³⁶² Several short paragraphs were written on this and the life of Colonel Tipton while the Association chose only to state that Landon Carter Haynes owned the home and held the position of Confederate senator. This choice is an internal influence on the interpretation of the site as the Association limited the expansion of the site's history solely to the Tipton time period of ownership. The same actions of limitation can be seen throughout the site's brochures from the first in 1967 to the 1990s when the Haynes family's story was added to the brochures.

Throughout the brochures the Association interpreted the involvement of the Tipton family in the State of Franklin movement and continued to elevate this history by emphasizing its importance to the creation of Tennessee.³⁶³ While each also interpreted the site's structures to have been built by Colonel Tipton, further research would discover this to be false. Each of the brochures continually limited the Haynes history until the inclusion of information on Haynes's career as a lawyer and his time in the home, and the inclusion of Haynes' portrait on the front cover of a brochure completed in the 1990s.³⁶⁴ Also, included in the 1990s brochure was a full timeline of the home including the ownership by the Haynes family.³⁶⁵ Through the influences of personal choice a site's history can be limited to interpret only what is believed to be the best of history. Influencing history in this manner can alter a person's understanding of historical events and cause a disconnect between the factual history and what is being interpreted. The site's brochures are an excellent example of these limitations as most limited the scope of Tipton-Haynes' educational value and took almost twenty years to correct.

³⁶² Ibid.

³⁶³ "Site Brochures," Tipton-Haynes Historical Association Records Series II-A-B-C, Box 2, Folder 8, Mary Hardin McCown Archives, Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site Johnson City TN.

³⁶⁴ "A Walk Back in Time," Tipton-Haynes Historical Association Records Series II-A-B-C, Box 2, Folder 8, Mary Hardin McCown Archives, Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site.

³⁶⁵ "A Walk Back in Time," Tipton-Haynes Historical Association Records Series II-A-B-C, Box 2, Folder 8, Mary Hardin McCown Archives, Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site.

With the brochures of the site influencing the visitors and raising funds for construction, the Association had a financial basis to begin construction of a museum. The Association along with the THC raised roughly \$17,000.00 to construct a log building to house the site's first visitor center and resemble the other log buildings on the grounds.³⁶⁶ Though the structure was completed as the site's museum and built to resemble other structures, it was to be a part of the interpretation as well. The museum was to represent a slave quarters on site.³⁶⁷ The Association knew the Tipton and Haynes families owned slaves which were to be interpreted during the tour at the museum.³⁶⁸

Several glass cases were placed in the new museum and filled with artifacts from the site, one case for the Tipton family and one for Haynes.³⁶⁹ Using these artifacts the interpretation of the site began as the visitors entered the center. After the completion of the museum it took another three years to open the site to the public, though school fieldtrips were being hosted as early as 1970.³⁷⁰ The site had not opened due to the delay in completion of the restoration of the site's buildings and grounds. Using the cases of artifacts during school fieldtrips the Association educated the site's visitors on the significance of the site and its inhabitants. A newspaper clipping from 1970 shows a bus unloading the students for the site's first school fieldtrip.³⁷¹ A second clipping states that "actual experience is an important part of a child's

³⁶⁶ John J. Baratte to Louise G. Reece, January 22, 1968, Tipton-Haynes Historical Association Records, Series VI, Box 1, Folder 18, Mary Hardin McCown Archives, Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site, Johnson City, TN.

³⁶⁷ Ibid.

³⁶⁸ Ibid.

³⁶⁹ Faith Stahl to Mary Hardin McCown, August 2, 1970, Mary Hardin McCown Collection, Box 7 Folder 18, Mary Hardin McCown Archives, Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site.

³⁷⁰ "A Bright Day at Tipton-Haynes," Tipton-Haynes Historical Association Records Series VII-A, Box 1, Folder 10, Newspaper Clippings 1970.

³⁷¹ Ibid.

education...experiences like exploring caves and visiting historical sites.”³⁷² The Association strove to spread the knowledge and experience of the site to insure that once they opened to the public the students would return with their parents to further the spread of the sites history.

In summer 1970, as publicity for the site increased, two articles appeared in the *Tennessee Historical Quarterly*.³⁷³ These two articles were written by men whom the site knew well but who were not part of the Association. In the first article, Dennis T. Lawson wrote on the history of the site from Colonel Tipton’s settlement to the restoration efforts in the 1950s with the clearing of the natural spring.³⁷⁴ Not much had changed from the brochures the previous years because Lawson focused heavily on the Tipton family and Colonel Tipton’s involvement in the State of Franklin and little on the Haynes time period.³⁷⁵ Most interpretations from the early years of the Association center on the Franklin movement, which can be seen through records in the sites archives as they pertain to the failed movement. Though Haynes’ representation in comparison was under developed, Lawson gave a more detailed description of Haynes’ life and inhabitants of the home than what the Association had published previous to this article.³⁷⁶ This is the first detailed version of the sites history and could have been used as the first interpretation of the site when they opened the following year.

Written by John J. Baratte, the second article challenged the Tipton-focused narrative preferred by the Association because it emphasized the restoration of the historic site and its

³⁷² “Shades of Huck Finn,” *Johnson City Press-Chronicle*, Sunday October 18, 1970, Tipton-Haynes Historical Association Records Series VII-A, Box 1, Folder 10

³⁷³ Dennis T. Lawson, “Tipton-Haynes Place: A Landmark of East Tennessee.” *Tennessee Historical Quarterly*, (Summer 1970): 105-125.

³⁷⁴ Ibid.

³⁷⁵ Ibid.

³⁷⁶ Ibid.

buildings.³⁷⁷ Baratte attributed the construction of many of the buildings and the majority of the home to Landon Carter Haynes and his time of ownership.³⁷⁸ He wrote about each building and when it was possibly added to the site but spends most of his time on the house and the many additions that were made to it, most of which, Baratte stated Haynes constructed.³⁷⁹ Future testing of the buildings discredited some of these findings but the article does prove there was Haynes history to be interpreted on the grounds of the site and in writing but was overlooked by the early Association members.³⁸⁰ The two articles discussed how the THC and the Association interpreted the state's history. Both organizations wrote on the family that helped bring down a usurper state and create the new State of Tennessee while they focused far less heavily on the man who helped lead the state into the Civil War. The second article is the first to explain Haynes' history in a more inclusive fashion to the site's history. This was accomplished since the author was not a part of the Association and not limited by their beliefs. The second article gives way to explaining how influences internal and external can affect historical interpretation. The Association had not published anything of this nature on the Haynes family and chose to interpret the Tipton family while an outside researcher took it upon himself to write a more equal interpretation of the site.

As the completion of the restoration approached, the Association began to plan for a grand opening celebration for the site. The date was set for April 17, 1971, nine years after the

³⁷⁷ John J. Baratte, "The Later Years," *Tennessee Historical Quarterly* (Summer 1970): 125-129.

³⁷⁸ *Ibid.*

³⁷⁹ *Ibid.*

³⁸⁰ Daniel Whitaker Howard Brock, "Contextualizing the Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site (40WG59): Understanding Landscape Change at an Upland South Farmstead," (Master's thesis, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, 2012), 179-192.

Simerly brothers passed and the state gained ownership.³⁸¹ The celebration was to honor all of the hard work that had been done by Mrs. McCown, the THC, and the restoration crews that had brought the historic site back to life.³⁸² The opening celebration was a huge success but as time moved forward that year the Association noticed that the public was not visiting the site in the numbers that they had anticipated. The Association requested that the THC provide new funds to help aid in the acquisition of a summer director to help publicize the monument and the work that had been put into making the site a historic museum and continue development of events.³⁸³

Using much of the research into the Tipton family completed by Mrs. McCown, the Association created a walking tour of the site to help educate the site's visitors.³⁸⁴ The Association printed out a written tour for visitors to read as they moved through the site's structures but contained little information on each of the buildings. On one side paper contained information about the site's owners and historical events that had occurred on location, while the reverse side specifically recorded the history of the Lost State of Franklin. The flier heavily interpreted the Tipton family, for at the time still little information of the Haynes family had been used by the Association in the interpretation of the site.³⁸⁵ They chose to represent their

³⁸¹ Tipton-Haynes Historical Association Invitation, April 17, 1971, Mary Hardin McCown Collection, Box, 8, Folder 13, Mary Hardin McCown Archives, Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site, Johnson City, TN.

³⁸² Ibid.

³⁸³ Mrs. Faith Stahl to Mr. Stephen S. Lawrence, June 15, 1970, Tipton-Haynes Historical Association Records, Series IV-A, Box 1, Folder 7, Mary Hardin McCown Archives, Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site, Johnson City, TN.

³⁸⁴ "300 Years of History on the Tipton-Haynes Historical Farm, The Site of the Battle of the Lost State of Franklin," A Walking Tour, Undated, Tipton-Haynes Historical Association Records, Series II A-B-C, Box 2, Folder II-B:8, Mary Hardin McCown Archives, Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site.

³⁸⁵ "300 Years of History on the Tipton-Haynes Historical Farm, The Site of the Battle of the Lost State of Franklin," A Walking Tour, Undated, Tipton-Haynes Historical Association Records, Series II A-B-C, Box 2, Folder II-B:8, Mary Hardin McCown Archives, Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site.

ancestor's history through the Battle of the Lost State as the history of the site in its entirety.³⁸⁶

The Association chose to interpret Tipton history and their legacy within the creation of the state, over Landon Carter Haynes, whose history linked the site to rebellion.

After visitors took the walking tour they could purchase a brochure written by McCown titled "Tipton-Haynes Living Historical Farm," with historical information and information on the restoration of the site.³⁸⁷ Though short, the historical information included within centered solely on Colonel Tipton, his involvement in the State of Franklin movement, and his involvement in Tennessee politics.³⁸⁸ Two small paragraphs are granted to the Haynes family's ownership of the home; however, much of the information consisted of history on David Haynes, L.C. Haynes's father, and on the governorships of Bob and Alf Taylor, two brothers who were nephews of Landon Carter Haynes.³⁸⁹ The majority of the brochure consisted of information on the many restoration projects that took place to open the site to the public, followed by a list of the upcoming events at the site and parties that the Association hosted that year.³⁹⁰ Even with the lack of history on either family, the overwhelming representation of how Colonel John Tipton was involved in the State of Franklin continued to be ever present in the interpretation of the site's history.

³⁸⁶ "300 Years of History on the Tipton-Haynes Historical Farm, The Site of the Battle of the Lost State of Franklin," A Walking Tour, Undated, Tipton-Haynes Historical Association Records, Series II A-B-C, Box 2, Folder II-B:8, Mary Hardin McCown Archives, Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site.

³⁸⁷ McCown, Mary Hardin, Tipton-Haynes Living Historical Farm, August 20, 1976, Tipton-Haynes Historical Association Records, Series II A-B-C, Box 2, Folder II-B:8, Mary Hardin McCown Archives, Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site.

³⁸⁸ Ibid.

³⁸⁹ McCown, Mary Hardin, Tipton-Haynes Living Historical Farm, August 20, 1976, Tipton-Haynes Historical Association Records, Series II A-B-C, Box 2, Folder II-B:8, Mary Hardin McCown Archives, Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site.

³⁹⁰ Ibid.

As the Association continued and more people began to visit the site, they decided to create a newsletter for the people that joined the membership organization. The newsletters became a way for the Association to spread the news of the site and a way to spread some of the site's interesting historical stories. The Association began to send these out in 1983 with a small agenda of requesting new funds for the site's restoration that still was in need of completion and by listing the accomplishments of the site through the events they had hosted that season.³⁹¹ However, in 1988 the newsletter was transformed into "The Link."³⁹² This new revised newsletter continued the pattern of the earlier version, relating the history of the site and honoring the members of the Association. Included in some of the editions were "Tipton-Haynes Nuggets of History," and "Times of the Tiptons."³⁹³ Most of these two sections consisted of how the restoration of the site proceeded in the 1960s and 1970s and of the Tipton's time within the home, but a select few do contain historical material pertaining to the totality of the site's history.³⁹⁴

Unfortunately, throughout the early and mid-1980s the Association lost many of its founding members. While some retired, others passed away. Site historian Mary Hardin McCown died November 22, 1985.³⁹⁵ As new members of the board began to be elected, they continued the exaltation of the Tipton family over the Haynes family, mostly because the Tipton history was what they had inherited from the founding members. They continued the newsletters

³⁹¹ Ibid.

³⁹² Tipton-Haynes Link, 1988-1998, Tipton-Haynes Historical Association Records, Series II A-B-C, Box 2, Folder 10-B:8, Mary Hardin McCown Archives, Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site.

³⁹³ Ibid.

³⁹⁴ Ibid.

³⁹⁵ Obituary of Mary Hardin McCown, November 22, 1985, *Johnson City Press*, "Mary H. McCown, City Historian, dies," Saturday, November 23, 1985.

and based the interpretation of the site on McCown's research and the *Tennessee Historical Quarterly* article. However, as the new Association members began to settle into their roles they began to research into the history of the site and all its owners. This can be seen in the new tours were being written which altered the interpretation of the site using newly discovered information.

In the 1980s, the Association members began recording the history of the site on cassette tapes for visitors to listen to while touring the site. While some of the cassettes have dates written on them, most are not dated. As the tapes progress the interpretations alter slightly as if new information was being added as research was completed. Most of the tapes are of a short nature depending on where the visitor is on the grounds. This allows for a brief interpretation to be given and allows for the visitors themselves to enjoy their time on the grounds. Interpretation is not always done by a tour guide; a visitor will understand different aspects of the history and interpret the history differently than the guide. Visual along with audio cues around the site aided the interpretation of the grounds, and the audio cassettes became an innovative way for the Association to spread the historical knowledge of the site. The cassettes also alleviated the need for tour guides as the Association was limited on volunteers until the hiring of Elizabeth Dubberly as tour director in 1983.³⁹⁶

The earliest dated tape in the collection from 1981, is titled “school tour,” and is believed to feature Johnson City historian Ray Stahl.³⁹⁷ The tape opens with a welcome to the site and continues into the history, mentioning Colonel John Tipton and Landon Haynes as the two prominent owners of the home. After mentioning the two owners, the speaker directed listeners

³⁹⁶ Tipton-Haynes Historical Association Minutes, February 22, 1983, Tipton-Haynes Historical Association Records, Series 2-A, Box 1, Folder 4.

³⁹⁷ Ray Stahl, School Tour (Opposite side) Aug 1981, Audio Cassette Collection, Audio Cassette Collection Box 1, Tape 21, Mary Hardin McCown Archives, Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site.

to the cave, interpreted as being used by Native Americans, Daniel Boone, and the first white colonial settlers in the region before the farmstead was established.³⁹⁸ After speaking of the cave he moved to interpreting most of the site's outbuildings and ascribes construction of the buildings to Colonel John Tipton, differing from the article written by John Baratte in 1970, that stated Haynes built most of the buildings.³⁹⁹ Moving from the buildings the interpreter spoke of the events of the home in chronological order as Colonel Tipton purchased the land to his death. This order began as the tour entered the basement kitchen and the tape interpreted Colonel Tipton building the cabin in 1783. The tape then explained how the home was a log structure using the examples of the floor joists and the logs that have been exposed on the back porch of the home for visitors to see.⁴⁰⁰ Also while speaking of these two areas he examined Colonel Tipton's ownership of slaves, which also stayed in the basement kitchen.⁴⁰¹ Colonel Tipton's story continued except for a brief interlude recording the law office and its construction by Landon Haynes.⁴⁰² He mentioned how Haynes' law office, to the docents current date, is the oldest in Johnson City, and offered nothing about the Haynes family's time in the home or L. C. Haynes' life in politics.⁴⁰³ The tape then transitioned to the ell of the home where he explained that the two structures, the ell and the main home, were separate buildings in the time of the

³⁹⁸ Ibid.

³⁹⁹ Ibid.

⁴⁰⁰ Ibid.

⁴⁰¹ Ibid.

⁴⁰² Ibid.

⁴⁰³ Ibid.

Tipton family.⁴⁰⁴ The kitchen was interpreted as being constructed by Colonel Tipton for use as a summer kitchen with the basement serving as kitchen during the winter.⁴⁰⁵

The interpretation on the tape ended with the tour guide leading the tour inside the home. The tape did not interpret the rooms but did initially explain layout of the home.⁴⁰⁶ The interpreter stated that the home was segregated between the two families that lived there, with the main portion of the home furnished to Colonel Tipton and the rest to the Haynes era.⁴⁰⁷ No other history was given about the Haynes family or when they would have lived in the home. This first recorded interpretation still followed the earlier Tipton emphasis. The Association had changed some of its members but the history itself still remained untouched from Mary Hardin McCown's written version.

In August, 1981, Margaret Shurtz, women's program director for WJCW, a radio station in Johnson City, Tennessee, recorded a second recording specifically for school field trips.⁴⁰⁸ This tape included some of the information that appeared in the earlier tape but also included several stories about the grounds and added an expansive amount of detail to the interpreted history. Shurtz separated the tour into segments covering specific eras of the site's history. First, she began at the museum entrance where the outbuildings of the site can be seen.⁴⁰⁹ She then backtracked in history as the tour moved to the cave to interpret the first people to use the site

⁴⁰⁴ Ibid.

⁴⁰⁵ Ibid.

⁴⁰⁶ Ibid.

⁴⁰⁷ Ibid.

⁴⁰⁸ Margret Shurtz, Tipton-Haynes Tour, School Tour, Audio Cassette Collection, Audio Cassette Collection Box 1, Tape 23, Mary Hardin McCown Archives, Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site.

⁴⁰⁹ Ibid.

before the establishment of the farmstead.⁴¹⁰ Using an American Elm tree near the spring house she gave visual cues to how the site’s timeline would have advanced. She had the school kids imagine the tree as a sapling while speaking of the cave and then how the sapling became a hundred years older and bigger when the home was being built.⁴¹¹ As she finished each portion of her tour, she gave time for the school kids to move around the grounds giving them a chance to experience what she had just interpreted and adding further visual connections to the historical value.⁴¹²

Starting the tour from the museum entrance, the students could visually grasp the layout of the site and see the outbuildings that the families would have used for grains or animals. The student’s ability to see the buildings allowed Shultz to interpret the site through a physical sense and interpret the facts of the historical owners using the structures. Shultz interpreted each of the buildings such as the barn and corncrib, on how each were used by the Tipton family. She included a story about Colonel Tipton’s prized races horses, Irish Gray and Diomed, that would have stayed in the barn.⁴¹³ Shurtz continued to interpret the Tipton family as owning many other forms of livestock that stayed elsewhere on the property.⁴¹⁴ She continued by interpreting the spring and still house that she believed were built by Colonel Tipton as well, and how he made his own “spirits and wines.”⁴¹⁵ She then took the tour to the bottom of the hill where they could sit under the historic Elm tree near the spring house (it is no longer standing) to begin her

⁴¹⁰ Ibid.

⁴¹¹ Ibid.

⁴¹² Ibid.

⁴¹³ Margret Shurtz, Tipton-Haynes Tour, School Tour, Audio Cassette Collection, Audio Cassette Collection Box 1, Tape 23, Mary Hardin McCown Archives, Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site.

⁴¹⁴ Ibid.

⁴¹⁵ Ibid.

historical interpretation of the cave. She explained that the cave had been used for hundreds or even thousands of years as the history stretches back to the Native Americans.⁴¹⁶

Using the visual aspect of the grounds, she interpreted the cave through the growth of the elm the students sat under. By doing this she asked the kids to think of the tree when it was a sapling and the buffalo were moving through the meadow.⁴¹⁷ Many Natives and white settlers moved through the region and used the cave which Shurtz elaborates on while still using the stages of the tree's life cycle. She then allowed the students to experience the cave for themselves to physically interpret the information that they just heard. After the students finished in the cave, they returned to the elm and be seated facing the main home. By having them face the main home Shurtz offered another visual interpretation of the site.

Shurtz began the second part of her tour by asking the students to imagine the elm a hundred years older to interpret the site under the ownership of the Henry and Tipton families.⁴¹⁸ The interpretation then begins by saying that the property was a part of a land grant to Samuel Henry whom "did not want to live here" and sold it to Colonel Tipton.⁴¹⁹ She explained how Colonel Tipton was a prominent man in Virginia before moving to the western region of North Carolina. Shurtz spoke of the State of Franklin and how it tried to separate from the mother state to govern itself. She quickly moved through the history of Franklin but spent a great deal on the Battle of the Lost State of Franklin using the home as a visual aspect of the battle field.⁴²⁰ Shurtz explained how Tipton took some of Sevier's (the Governor) slaves and how Sevier mustered the

⁴¹⁶ Ibid.

⁴¹⁷ Ibid.

⁴¹⁸ Margret Shurtz, Tipton-Haynes Tour, School Tour, Audio Cassette Collection, Audio Cassette Collection Box 1, Tape 23, Mary Hardin McCown Archives, Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site.

⁴¹⁹ Ibid.

⁴²⁰ Ibid.

militia to retrieve his stolen property.⁴²¹ This action by Colonel Tipton started the battle which took part on the last three days of February and became the “only battle that John Sevier ever lost.”⁴²² Shurtz discussed much of the battle and how Colonel Tipton’s forces were able to force back Sevier’s militia with aid from Sullivan County.⁴²³ After interpreting how the Franklin movement failed, Shurtz interpreted the history of Colonel Tipton until his death in 1813 and how he held many political offices working alongside John Sevier later in life.⁴²⁴

As Shurtz’s interpretation came to a close with the death of Colonel Tipton, she mentioned that the home was sold by Tipton’s heir who fought in the War of 1812.⁴²⁵ She then began the interpretation of the home after it was bought by David Haynes but stated that the purchase was in 1834, when it truly was in 1837, three years later.⁴²⁶ This portion of the interpretation differed from all other recordings of the site’s history, which could be a mistake, but being one of the first recordings it could be due to the historical information provided was mistaken. Still, Haynes' history had not been thoroughly researched. Shurtz continued by sharing that David Haynes had a large family with twelve children. She then stated that the home was given by David to his oldest son Landon as a wedding present for him and his new wife Elenore, and she noted briefly that Landon Haynes became a Confederate senator from Tennessee.⁴²⁷ She

⁴²¹ Ibid.

⁴²² Margret Shurtz, Tipton-Haynes Tour, School Tour, Audio Cassette Collection, Audio Cassette Collection Box 1, Tape 23, Mary Hardin McCown Archives, Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site.

⁴²³ Ibid.

⁴²⁴ Ibid.

⁴²⁵ Ibid.

⁴²⁶ Ibid.

⁴²⁷ Margret Shurtz, Tipton-Haynes Tour, School Tour, Audio Cassette Collection, Audio Cassette Collection Box 1, Tape 23, Mary Hardin McCown Archives, Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site.

also stated that Landon Haynes had to leave his home after the Civil War due to hostile sentiments against him and that he sold the property in 1871.⁴²⁸ No other history of Landon Carter Haynes or any of the Haynes family was mentioned in this part of the tour.

For the next part of her tour, Shurtz took the tour group to the law office just beside the main house. She did not allow the tour to enter the law office but did allow tour participants to look in the windows. After the tour participants finished looking in, they were told to move around the main house to look at the basement kitchen and then wait on the back porch at the ell of the home.⁴²⁹ Nothing was said about Haynes' law career or the history of the building at this time. Once the tour entered the ell of the home, Shurtz dictated that the kitchen portion of the ell was built by Colonel John Tipton for his summer kitchen.⁴³⁰ She also interpreted it as being a separate building until the dining room and "dog trot" (back porch of main home, loom room) were enclosed.⁴³¹ As the interpretation of the construction of the home continued, Shurtz mentioned the main log cabin within the front portion of the home and the additions that were made, but she did not mention by whom. At this point she finished her tour by stating that the furnishings of the home date to the antebellum era of the 1840s, when the Haynes family lived on the property and had owned it for several years. Despite mentions of the Haynes family, however, she almost solely interpreted the site through the Tipton perspective. Using visual connections throughout her tour seemed to be an excellent addition giving the students something to understand easily but entering the home with an understanding of the late 1700s and early 1800s only to visually interpret the home much later changes the perspective of the

⁴²⁸ Ibid.

⁴²⁹ Ibid.

⁴³⁰ Ibid.

⁴³¹ Ibid.

history itself. This influence of interpretation alters a visitor's understanding of the home drastically as they are informed of the pioneer era outside only to enter the home structured in the antebellum era. A drastic change in the representation can cause a disconnect between the visitor, the guide, and the site.

Shurtz finished her tour of the site by showing visitors the smoke house, the "cook's house," and the outhouse.⁴³² From the 1980 recordings, Shurtz's tour was the most complete interpretation of the site. The recording manifests how the Association interpreted the site's history and how they viewed Colonel John Tipton's time at the site. By presenting Tipton history over the Haynes or the Simerly histories shows the influence of how the internal workings of the Association chose what history was more important, and how they chose to alter the site's full interpretation to represent only a portion of the site's history.

On the reverse side of Shurtz's school tour tape is a second school tour by a docent believed to be Ray Stahl but will be referred to as the male docent due to not knowing who actually gave the tour. Stahl became the Tipton-Haynes Historical Association historian after Mary McCown.⁴³³ The docent's tour, most likely given in August, 1981, consisted of much of the same information as Shurtz's recorded tour.⁴³⁴ The male docent introduced the site and its two main inhabitants as he began describing the museum and all that it contained from the Tipton period.⁴³⁵ Like Shurtz, the male docent described the outbuildings around the museum,

⁴³² Ibid.

⁴³³ Ray Stahl, New Introduction, Audio Cassette Collection, Audio Cassette Collection Box 1, Tape 18, Mary Hardin McCown Archives, Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site.

⁴³⁴ Ray Stahl, School Tour, August 1981, Audio Cassette Collection, Audio Cassette Collection Box 1, Tape 23, Mary Hardin McCown Archives, Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site.

⁴³⁵ Audio Cassette Collection, Audio Cassette Collection Box 1, Tape 23, (Opposite Side), Mary Hardin McCown Archives, Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site.

while informing the tour of their uses and how Colonel Tipton built them.⁴³⁶ However, his interpretation diverged from Schurtz' when he described how Landon Carter Haynes expanded the Tipton's log home by using frame construction to add the ell of the home.⁴³⁷ The male docent then briefly explained how Haynes was the first lawyer in Johnson City and his law office is the oldest law office still standing.⁴³⁸ Like Ms. Shurtz, the male docent discussed the cave and all who would have used it, and he interpreted the history of Colonel John Tipton, spending much of this segment on the State of Franklin.⁴³⁹ He used the correct dates in his recording for when the home was bought by David Haynes, who gave it to Landon Carter Haynes.⁴⁴⁰

The male docent then drastically changed interpretation compared to Shurtz's tour for the visitors. The docent interprets the home from the Haynes perspective due to the furnishings and the structure itself.⁴⁴¹ This had little bearing on the history interpreted as it still relied heavily on the Tipton history but used the home as a visual representation of the antebellum time period.⁴⁴² Even with interpreting the histories of the site from a different viewpoint certain similarities were made between the two recordings as both docents interpreted the kitchen within the ell as being built by Tipton and the two connecting rooms by Haynes.⁴⁴³

⁴³⁶ Ibid.

⁴³⁷ Ibid.

⁴³⁸ Ibid.

⁴³⁹ Ibid.

⁴⁴⁰ Ibid.

⁴⁴¹ Ibid.

⁴⁴² Audio Cassette Collection, Audio Cassette Collection Box 1, Tape 23, (Opposite Side), Mary Hardin McCown Archives, Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site.

⁴⁴³ Ibid.

Though the tapes were created roughly at the same time they differ in the interpretation of the site's history. Differences in interpretation can cause disconnects between the site, its docents, and its visitors that could alter the value of the site to the community. Without community visitation and involvement, Tipton-Haynes and historic sites across the nation would not survive. A docent's influence on interpretation can also cause a false interpretation to be told and expanded upon. A non-factual interpretation, whether it be due to lack of information or by choice, can alter a site's interpretation for years to come as that interpretation is passed from docent to docent. However, a difference in an interpretation can also aid the site in keeping visitors' interest in the site but must be constructed from the factual information. Visitors possibly do not wish to hear the same history over and over and allowing alterations to interpretation grants the ability for the visitor and the tour guide to expand their understandings of the history and the site.

Other undated tapes in the collection are titled after specific sections of the tour, such as a welcoming to the museum and interpretations in the basement kitchen. The speaker on the three tapes titled "basement kitchen" all resemble the docent of the 1981 tape, believed to be Ray Stahl. The docent interpreted the small kitchen for the visitors by beginning with Colonel Tipton and his move from Virginia in 1783.⁴⁴⁴ He then quickly mentioned that Landon Carter Haynes did remodel the home during his ownership in the 1840s and 1850s.⁴⁴⁵ The speaker continued then with the history of the rooms and how they protected the family from Native Americans and housed slaves that Tipton brought from Virginia.⁴⁴⁶ Next, he discussed the State of Franklin and

⁴⁴⁴ Unknown, Basement Tipton House, 4 min Little, Audio Cassette Collection, Audio Cassette Collection Box 1, Tape 2, Mary Hardin McCown Archives, Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site.

⁴⁴⁵ Ibid.

⁴⁴⁶ Ibid.

how it impacted the home through the Battle of the Lost State of Franklin.⁴⁴⁷ This became his main talking point as he described how the battle traversed three days, a history of each day of the battle, and how Sherriff Johnathon Pugh was shot.⁴⁴⁸ This interpretation explained how John Sevier was forced to retreat from the battle and made Colonel Tipton out to be the hero of the day.⁴⁴⁹ Although the tour still being in the basement kitchen, the docent mentioned the additions to the home made by Landon Haynes, such as the sitting room. Dendrochronological tests in 2008 have shown that John Tipton Jr. was the one to remodel the main structure.⁴⁵⁰ Two following tapes were made by a tour guide in the basement kitchen but the content referenced only the State of Franklin and the battle that took place at the Tipton-Haynes site. These next two tapes further the advancement of Colonel Tipton's stature and popularity.

The next several tapes do not pertain to the site's interpreted history; one is of note. Dr. C. Clifford Boyd, Jr. of the Institute of Appalachian Affairs at East Tennessee State University (ETSU) held a conference on site about the excavations that he had led on the grounds with his students in 1985.⁴⁵¹ He spoke of the many artifacts that were found and trash pits that were excavated to help represent the site's history through material collections.⁴⁵² He also mentioned how his class discovered a foundation that was believed to be an offset kitchen from the home and several items that relate to a kitchen.⁴⁵³ This information is still included in current Tipton-

⁴⁴⁷ Ibid.

⁴⁴⁸ Ibid.

⁴⁴⁹ Ibid.

⁴⁵⁰ Ibid.

⁴⁵¹ Dr. Boyd, Archaeological Program Dr. Boyd, Audio Cassette Collection, Audio Cassette Collection Box 1, Tape 5, Mary Hardin McCown Archives, Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site.

⁴⁵² Ibid.

⁴⁵³ Ibid.

Haynes tours as visitors enter the ell of the main house. Boyd continued by discussing some of the techniques that the students were taught and used to excavate around the site. He sought to inform his audience that any disturbance in the sediment destroys some of the history beneath, so caution had to be used when excavating.⁴⁵⁴ The discovery of a new foundation corrected the earlier interpretation that contained the assertion that Colonel Tipton built the summer kitchen, because the newly discovered foundation pre-dates the summer kitchen's construction. Influence on interpretation such as further research and archeological surveys continue to alter the history of the site and its interpretation. Because Boyd's team tested many locations around every major building on site and the cave, his archeological digs began to influence the site's interpretation and how staff understood the Native Americans and the early eras of the site's history⁴⁵⁵

After the 1970s and 1980s the tour began to take a new shape. During the 1980s many of the founding members of the Association began to pass or move away from their responsibilities allowing others to take their place. This change in the Association brought in a new life to the interpretation and research into all the site's history. The new Association members began research into all the owners of the home and their accomplishments instead of limiting the site and its visitors to one specific era in history. This new information began to alter the interpretation of the site to a more complete tale of the site's history and its historical value to the region. With each of the tour recordings, brochures, and written tours, it became apparent that docents had some room to interpret the site's history along with interesting facts from the period being interpreted. This created differences in tours and different connections to be made to the historical value of the site. However, the differences must interpret the same information to remain factual and not to produce falsehoods. Tours must alter as time progresses as interests of

⁴⁵⁴ Ibid.

⁴⁵⁵ Ibid.

the public could change overtime. Not altering its interpretation could cause a disconnect from the community and visitors, while possibly causing a site to close due to low attendance.

Influence on tours whether it comes from the docent themselves or the visitors to the site can have a drastic impact on how the history is presented to the public. Without alterations to a tour as presented by many of Tipton-Haynes docents, the site would have lost its mission to educate the public on the site's vital role in early American history and East Tennessee history, but also through these tour's interpretation of only half a story can also harm the site. With the site presenting half of its historical value the Association alienated an entire family that could have helped establish the site and aided in its restoration projects. Through internal and personal influences of the early Association members the site interpreted in large part the Tipton family and the early pioneer era and represented the heroic actions of their ancestors that lived within the home. It was not until external works were written and presented to the Association that Haynes history was largely included into the interpretation of the site. Alterations to historical interpretations must be made for historic sites to remain relevant to their visitors in fear of becoming irrelevant. Although the Association and many of the docents of Tipton-Haynes interpreted almost solely the Tipton history, alterations to the interpretation can be tracked. The sites history began to change as a new board began to influence the sites direction and began new research into the Haynes family. Also, influences on the site such as the excavations by Dr. Boyd's archeological team helped to alter the site's history forever by presenting new evidence that the main house had different construction dates than previously interpreted. Through these alterations Tipton-Haynes during the 1970s and 1980s remained a relevant site to the community, but still drastically favored only a portion of the site's history.

CHAPTER 4. INFLUENCES

Historic sites face many different forms of influence that affect change in sites' historical interpretation and the connections to the community around them. Many secondary works discuss several influences that could alter a site for the betterment or for the worse. These works illustrate how historic sites have faced these alterations, advanced their connections to the community around them, and expanded upon their interpretations to remain relevant to the public. Connections between these works and Tipton-Haynes can be drawn as many of these same influences have changed Tipton-Haynes forever. Also, Tipton-Haynes faced many internal influences that changed the site's interpretation, some for the worse, but were overcome allowing for further research and expansion upon the interpretation of the site.

Throughout Tipton-Haynes's history, the Association, staff, and volunteers have strived to incorporate as much of the proven evidentiary history as possible into the interpretation and have moved away from the exclusion of history, due to its offensive nature. All history should be presented and interpreted so that individuals can shape their own opinions of America's past. Inclusions of historical value, such as the inclusion of women's, children's, and slaves' roles into the interpretation of a site, advance the understanding of and connections to the community and visitors. Through these connections historic sites across the nation can survive and continue to educate on their historical significance. Without community involvement and visitors to the site, historic sites lose their main goal of educating and must alter their path to recapture the relevance to the people or be forced to close. Alterations to interpretation continually aid a site in connecting the public to the history and allow for a site to remain open. Throughout time, Tipton-Haynes has faced these internal and external influences and have achieved a renewed

interpretation allowing for better connectivity to the public and a better understanding of the site's pastime.

As Tipton-Haynes progressed presenting the history of the Tipton family, so did the vision for future events and historical education for the site and its visitors. In 1983, the Association voted to name Faith Stahl, one of the last remaining charter members of the Tipton-Haynes Historical Association still assisting with the site in the 1980s, to be the site's first director.⁴⁵⁶ She served from 1983 to 1986. She had previously served on many committees and was president of the board from 1970-1971.⁴⁵⁷ Her vast knowledge of the site and long-time dedication to bringing in visitors as the volunteer director aided the Association's decision in asking her to direct the site daily and represent the site's history to the best of her ability. Stahl's plan was to resurrect the failed theatrical play that had been the Association's goal since its conception, and which would honor the contributions of the Tipton family to the creation of Tennessee. Though she seems to have worked diligently in the pursuit of the play and in the daily operations of the site, she was not able to create a suitable theatrical script for the Association and the Tennessee Historical Commission as it was not enacted through her tenure as director.⁴⁵⁸

⁴⁵⁶ Tipton-Haynes Historical Association Meeting Minutes, October 10, 1983, Tipton-Haynes Historical Association Records, Series II-A, Box 1, Folder 4, Mary Hardin McCown Archives, Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site, Johnson City, TN.

⁴⁵⁷ Report to Board Members, June 30, 1970, Mary Hardin McCown Collection, Box 9, Folder 15, Mary Hardin McCown Archives, Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site, Johnson City TN, 2.

⁴⁵⁸ Earl Hobson Smith to Mrs. Stahl, April 18, 1971, Tipton-Haynes Historical Association Records, Series III, Box 1, Folder 8, Mary Hardin McCown Archives, Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site, Johnson City, TN.

However, Stahl did honor the Tipton family and all families that lived in the region during the State of Franklin (1784-1788) by creating the Lost State of Franklin Certificate.⁴⁵⁹ This certificate was intended for presentation to any person who had an ancestor who had lived in the failed state during its existence. Stahl had many ideas to propel the site into a new direction with its interpretation of history allowing for all families of the site to be recognized, such as the certificate for recognition of the Tipton family and events for the Haynes family. Before she could implement many of her ideas, however, she resigned.⁴⁶⁰ She did this because of the backlash that she had been receiving from the Association on the topic of slavery. During her time as director she had been diligently working to understand the use and applications of slavery on the site by both families, Tipton and Haynes, but was continually shut down by the Association. During the numerous years of restoration, the Association researched the likely use of every building on site and interpreted them as such, except for a small building that stood between the Law Office and the Joiner Shop. The Association believed that it was the site's slave cabin and wished to leave out this portion of interpretation. Subsequently, they removed the building from the grounds, forever changing the history of the site.⁴⁶¹ They felt that it would give a bad impression of the Tipton family and they wished to preserve their family's reputation clearer.

⁴⁵⁹ Tipton-Haynes Historical Association Annual Meeting Minutes, "Several Reasons can be Given for this Improvement," November 5, 1984, 2, Tipton-Haynes Historical Association Records, Series VIII, Box 1, Folder 1, Mary Hardin McCown Archives, Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site, Johnson City, TN.

⁴⁶⁰ Tipton-Haynes Historical Association Meeting Minutes, February 1986, Tipton-Haynes Historical Association Records, Series II-A, Box 1, Folder 5, Mary Hardin McCown Archives, Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site, Johnson City, TN.

⁴⁶¹ Negative of Removed Building, Mary Hardin McCown Collection, Box 8, Folder 3, Mary Hardin McCown Archives, Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site, Johnson City, TN.

Faith Stahl wished to advance the history of the site, and the board continually rejected her efforts to enhance the educational value of the site's history. She felt that all of the site's history should be told and interpreted -- good or bad -- and that visitors should be allowed to hear how even families as honored as the Tiptons owned slaves. However, on January 2, 1986, she ended her continual battle with the Association and tendered her resignation.⁴⁶² Within the resignation she wrote, "I am 'retiring' from the association with Tipton-Haynes Historical Association. My decision is irrevocable."⁴⁶³ Stahl's reason for her resignation shows how internal pressures can stall the progression of information added to the interpretation of a site. With her resignation the site once more sunk into a stretch of Tipton preservation with only small amounts of research on any other families that owned the property.

Though Stahl resigned before the Association's play on the Lost State of Franklin could come to fruition, she was successful in beginning the event the "Farm Festival," which told the story of the Lost State of Franklin through a reenactment.⁴⁶⁴ The reenactment interpreted the historical event and the actions taken by both the Tipton and Sevier forces through the interpretation of each reenactor. This allowed for the event not to be restricted by a script or play scenario and gave interpretive rights to the men and women involved. This reenactment went on for years until declining attendance undermined its usefulness to the site. In 2004 the "Maple Syrup Festival" was added to the event to help draw in attendance, but the reenactment did not

⁴⁶² Tipton-Haynes Historical Association Meeting Minutes, February 1986, Tipton-Haynes Historical Association Records, Series II-A, Box 1, Folder 5, Mary Hardin McCown Archives, Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site, Johnson City, TN.

⁴⁶³ Ibid.

⁴⁶⁴ Event Flyer, August 11-12, 1983, Tipton-Haynes Historical Association Records, Series VII-C, Box 4-A, Folder 20, Mary Hardin McCown Archives, Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site, Johnson City, TN.

survive after that year, although the Maple Syrup Festival continues to this day.⁴⁶⁵ In 1987 at the request of the group Sons of Confederate Veterans, a small Civil War Reenactment was added to the events for that year.⁴⁶⁶ The event was to raise awareness in the community of the Civil War and to interpret the lives of soldiers in camp life.

The reenactment being the second reenactment sponsored by an outside organization to be hosted by Tipton-Haynes, became a major alteration to the interpretations of the site for the Civil War period, but only interpreted the Civil War overall. The SCV did little to aid the advancement of historical education of the Haynes family other than telling of the ownership of the home by a Confederate senator, which was the only history the Association interpreted for Haynes since the Association's conception.⁴⁶⁷ However, during the event the Association did allow visitors through the main house and interpreted the home through the antebellum era as it had been furnished to that time period.⁴⁶⁸ Still, the Association knew little about Haynes and his life, a topic which would not be included in the interpretation of the site for a few more years.

Also, in 1987, Betty Ballew was hired as the site's new director.⁴⁶⁹ Ballew helped establish a bus tour connecting sites across East Tennessee with historical connections to the Lost State of Franklin movement. This tour, organized just as the other site events had been

⁴⁶⁵ "Gun Fire and Gallons of Syrup: Tipton-Haynes brings back the battle," *Herald and Tribune*, March 2, 2004, Tipton Haynes Historical Association Records, Series VII-A, Box 3, Folder 5, Mary Hardin McCown Archives, Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site, Johnson City, TN.

⁴⁶⁶ "Civil War Breaks Out at Tipton-Haynes," *Herald and Tribune*, May 6, 1987, Tipton-Haynes Historical Association Records, Series VII-A, Box 2, Folder 1, Mary Hardin McCown Archives, Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site, Johnson City, TN.

⁴⁶⁷ "Fighting to Erupt anew at Tipton-Haynes farm," *Johnson City Press*, May 1, 1987, Tipton-Haynes Historical Association Records, Series VII-A, Box 2, Folder 1, Mary Hardin McCown Archives, Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site, Johnson City, TN.

⁴⁶⁸ Ibid.

⁴⁶⁹ Tipton-Haynes Historical Association Meeting Minutes, February 1986, Tipton-Haynes Historical Association Records, Series II-A, Box 1, Folder 5, Mary Hardin McCown Archives, Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site, Johnson City, TN.

organized, centered on the presentation and interpretation of Colonel John Tipton and his support for North Carolina over the growing movement in the 1780s. It consisted of four stops across the region at museums and historic homes that all played a major role in the history of the failed state, such as the remains of the home of Governor John Sevier. The last stop of the tour ended at Tipton-Haynes. While the tour route interpreted the early growth of the Franklin movement, the portion of the tour at Tipton-Haynes highlighted the demise of Franklin by allowing tour participants to walk the grounds where the Battle of The Lost State of Franklin occurred and Governor John Sevier began his retreat from the Tipton property. The tour was launched in 1987 but was not continued the following year for unknown reason. Also, Director Ballew did not return for a second year as director and Mrs. Rebecca Thomas was hired in her place.⁴⁷⁰

As the history of the site continued to develop, it seemed that the events of the site were leaving a major inhabitant out of the picture. Under the new director this absence became even more apparent as the site moved forward with the Farm Festival that encompassed the Franklin reenactment and the Bicentennial Commemoration of the Lost State of Franklin. This event incorporated the struggle, hardship, and dedication of the people that lived in this region on both sides during the Franklin movement. The site continued its sole interpretation of its first inhabitant Colonel John Tipton with every aspect of the history, tours, and events, but under Director Thomas the first interpretations of Landon Carter Haynes took place with the SCV reenactment. The Association solely hosted its first Civil War Reenactment two years later in 1989.⁴⁷¹ The reenactment educated the site's visitors on the life and career of Landon Carter

⁴⁷⁰ Tipton-Haynes Historical Association Meeting Minutes, February 1986, Tipton-Haynes Historical Association Records, Series II-A, Box 1, Folder 5, Mary Hardin McCown Archives, Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site, Johnson City, TN.

⁴⁷¹ Tipton-Haynes Historical Association Meeting Minutes, February 1986, Tipton-Haynes Historical Association Records, Series II-A, Box 1, Folder 5, Mary Hardin McCown Archives, Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site, Johnson City, TN.

Haynes within the Confederate government, and his time in the home. Part of the interpretation stated that Haynes made great strides opening the region to transportation and trade that improved a lot of families secluded by the mountains and supported the connection of the railway through the Haynesville region of Tennessee (current day Johnson City).⁴⁷²

Though the Reenactment was cancelled the following year (1990) the reenactment sparked the additional need for historical interpretation for the Haynes family and the Association began researching the life of Landon Carter Haynes.⁴⁷³ The Haynes research began to alter the path of the Association and the site itself as the Haynes family history, that had been ignored for decades, began to grow the understanding and interest of the site. Canceled along with the Civil War Reenactment was the Farm Festival that had been the site's first annual event. Both these events were believed to be canceled due to low attendance. However, the State of Franklin Reenactment survived the cancelation and continued for years.⁴⁷⁴ The survival of a specific part of a canceled event showed how the Association still held on to the interpretation of the Tipton family and chose to glorify the family even as fewer and fewer people attended the event.

In 1991 some major changes to the site and its interpretation took place. On April 27, 1991 a grand re-opening festival took place to celebrate the conclusion of a restoration project that started in 1990 on the main historic home and a few of the other structures around the

⁴⁷² James W. Holland, "The Buildings of the East Tennessee and Virginia Railroad," *East Tennessee Historical Society's Publications*, no. 4 (1932), 85-86; Senate Journal, 1847-48, 369, 380, 603; *Nashville Daily Union* (Nashville, TN), November 1, 1849.

⁴⁷³ Tipton-Haynes Historical Association Meeting Minutes, April 5, 1989, Tipton-Haynes Historical Association Records, Series II-A, Box 1, Folder 5, Mary Hardin McCown Archives, Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site, Johnson City, TN.

⁴⁷⁴ "Gun Fire and Gallons of Syrup: Tipton-Haynes Brings Back the Battle," [Jonesborough] *Herald and Tribune*, March 2, 2004, Tipton Haynes Historical Association Records, Series VII-A, Box 3, Folder 5, Mary Hardin McCown Archives, Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site, Johnson City, TN.

grounds.⁴⁷⁵ This festival recognized the hard work that had been put into restoring the home and was attended by several dignitaries from the City of Johnson City and the State of Tennessee such as Senator Rusty Crowe. A major difference between this festival and others put on by the Association was that the Association members wore fashions appropriate for East Tennesseans during the Haynes time in the home.⁴⁷⁶ For what appears to be the first time other than the 1989 reenactment and for limited tours of the law office, members of the Association made a point of representing the Haynes family for visitors, instead of solely interpreting the Tipton family. Unfortunately, nothing is known about how the docents portrayed the family or what historical records shaped the interpretation. A second major change to the Association in 1991 took place when Director Rebecca Thomas informed the board that she would be stepping down by the end of September that same year.⁴⁷⁷ The Association immediately launched an employment ad in the local newspaper. Over one hundred applicants applied.⁴⁷⁸ Four applicants were interviewed and finally the Association hired internally and selected Association member Penny McLaughlin to fill the position.⁴⁷⁹

⁴⁷⁵ “Tipton-Haynes To Hold Grand Reopening Festival April 27,” *The Loafer*,” April 24, 1991, 6, Tipton Haynes Historical Association Records, Series VII-A, Box 2, Folder 5, Mary Hardin McCown Archives, Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site, Johnson City, TN.

⁴⁷⁶ *Ibid.*

⁴⁷⁷ Tipton-Haynes Historical Association Minutes of the Board of Trustees, September 4, 1991, Tipton-Haynes Historical Association Records, Series II-A, Box 1, Folder 7, Mary Hardin McCown Archives, Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site, Johnson City, TN.

⁴⁷⁸ Tipton-Haynes Historical Association Applicants for Position/ Executive Director, Tipton-Haynes Historical Association Records, Series II-A, Box 1, Folder 7, Mary Hardin McCown Archives, Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site, Johnson City, TN.

⁴⁷⁹ “Historic Site gets New Blood,” *Johnson City Press*, October 19, 1991, Tipton Haynes Historical Association Records, Series VII-A, Box 2, Folder 5, Mary Hardin McCown Archives, Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site, Johnson City, TN.

Under McLaughlin's leadership the site revamped the Civil War Reenactment and called it Haynesville in honor of Landon Carter Haynes.⁴⁸⁰ The City of Johnson City was called Haynesville before the Civil War by the federal government and during the war by the Confederate government.⁴⁸¹ McLaughlin served as director for the next twenty-five years.⁴⁸² To remain in the public eye McLaughlin altered the interpretation of the site to help educate the public about the site's history in its entirety and not just of the Tipton family. She did keep the Tipton history alive by creating the "Times of the Tiptons" in 1991 to help educate the public on the Tipton family and their time in the home, which included the ongoing battle of the lost state, to help draw public interest.⁴⁸³ She also began researching into the Haynes family in order to expand the site's understanding on the family and their value to the region.

Director McLaughlin continued to change the site as she renamed the annual Christmas event to "Historic Holidays with the Haynes Family."⁴⁸⁴ The Association had decorated the home in prior years, but on December 5, 1992, McLaughlin created this event in honor of the Haynes family. This event continued to celebrate Landon Haynes and his family, as his birthday is December 2. However, McLaughlin invited the 61st infantry unit to set up camp to allow visitors to step back in time and visualize how soldiers in the Civil War survived the winter

⁴⁸⁰ "Haynes era comes back with a bang," *Johnson City Press*, May 3, 1992, Tipton Haynes Historical Association Records, Series VII-A, Box 2, Folder 5, Mary Hardin McCown Archives, Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site, Johnson City, TN.

⁴⁸¹ Washington County Historical Association, *History of Washington County Tennessee*, ed. Joyce and W, Eugene Cox (Johnson City TN: Overmountain Press, 2001), 150-157.

⁴⁸² Tipton-Haynes Board of Trustees called meeting minutes, January 12, 2016, Filing Cabinet 3, Row 3, Fy 2015-2016, Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site, Johnson City, TN.

⁴⁸³ "... the times of the Tiptons," *Johnson City Press*, September 10, 1992, Tipton Haynes Historical Association Records, Series VII-A, Box 2, Folder 6, Mary Hardin McCown Archives, Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site, Johnson City, TN.

⁴⁸⁴ "Sights, Sounds of Christmas," *Johnson City Press*, December 1, 1992, Tipton Haynes Historical Association Records, Series VII-A, Box 2, Folder 6, Mary Hardin McCown Archives, Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site, Johnson City, TN.

months.⁴⁸⁵ This was to add a visual and tactile connection to the event and to the history it was presenting. Along with refurbished events for the site, a new discovery of artifacts representing a home structure were made near the side of the historic barn. These Artifacts were believed to be the remanence of the cabin that stood in the 1857 depiction of the site within the *Harper's Magazine*.⁴⁸⁶ This cabin was thought to be the slave cabin for the Haynes family and with its discovery revived an old interpretation made new. The Association had conflicting beliefs on interpreting slavery proven by the Association's removal of the small structure behind the law office believed to be a slave cabin.⁴⁸⁷ Also, the museum had been erected to mimic the rest of the log structures and be interpreted as a slave cabin until one could be constructed.⁴⁸⁸ However, the Association influenced the interpretation of the museum structure and never stated its purpose of representing a slave cabin. Any effort to interpret slavery had been abandoned by the early Association due to its stain on American history and they wished not to stain the Tipton family legacy. Donated to the Association in 1999, the Fox/Harwood cabin was placed on top of the location of the artifacts in 2000.⁴⁸⁹

With the inclusion of a slave cabin at the site in 2000 the interpretation began to change to recognize the slaves that served the Tipton and the Haynes families. This alteration led to a clearer understanding for visitors and the Association of how families operated such large farms and allowed for the lives of these slaves to be explained to the fullest factual interpretation.

⁴⁸⁵ Ibid.

⁴⁸⁶ David Hunter Strother, "A Winter in The South," *Harper's Magazine*, 90, no. 15 (November 1857): 723.

⁴⁸⁷ Negative of Removed Building, Mary Hardin McCown Collection, Box 8, Folder 3, Mary Hardin McCown Archives, Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site, Johnson City, TN.

⁴⁸⁸ John J. Baratte to Louise G. Reece, January 22, 1968, Tipton-Haynes Historical Association Records, Series VI, Box 1, Folder 18, Mary Hardin McCown Archives, Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site, Johnson City, TN.

⁴⁸⁹ Transfer Agreement, 1999, George Haynes Cabin Project Records, Box 1, Folder 7, Mary Hardin McCown Archives, Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site, Johnson City, TN.

Allowing new history to help influence the site and change the interpretation helped expand the research into the Haynes family. In the late 1990s, as funds were being raised to build the new museum, Director McLaughlin received a research grant which was to support research by East Tennessee State University Archivist Ed Speer into the Haynes family and their roles at the site.⁴⁹⁰ The majority of the site's interpretation of the Haynes family comes from the work of Director McLaughlin and Ed Speer.

Throughout the mid and late 1990s the Association and Director McLaughlin continued to hold regular annual events and to educate the public on the histories of the site and the region. In 1994, McLaughlin again changed the name of the Christmas event, giving it the current name, “Visions of Christmas,” to better incorporate the event with the season's spirit.⁴⁹¹ She also began petitioning the Tennessee Historical Commission to build a new visitor center that would provide improved archival and storage space. This request came about in part due to the reorganization of the site's museum and archival collections by McLaughlin, Ed Speer, and a student from the local college, East Tennessee State University. Speer and an assistant created new collections and protected these collections by placing all the materials into acid free sleeves while also preserving the information for future endeavors with prospects of a new museum.⁴⁹² The new accessibility of archived material made possible a greater emphasis on the Haynes's in the interpretation of the site for visitors. While the site continued with its annual events that honored both the Tipton and the Haynes families, tours of the site changed as new information came to

⁴⁹⁰ Tennessee Wars Commission Grant, 1999, Tipton-Haynes Civil War Exhibit Collection, Box 1, Folder 2, Mary Hardin McCown Archives, Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site, Johnson City, TN.

⁴⁹¹ “Remember the Times: Site Chimes in with 1861 gala,” *Johnson City Press*, December 4, 1994, Tipton-Haynes Association Records, Series VII-A, Box 2, Folder 9, Mary Hardin McCown Archives, Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site, Johnson City, TN.

⁴⁹² Tipton-Haynes Civil War Exhibit Collection, Box 1-5, Mary Hardin McCown Archives, Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site, Johnson City, TN.

light. The deeper into research Speer got, more information came to light on the role Haynes played in relation to the East Tennessee economy and was slowly added to the tours to help increase the notoriety of his involvement in Tennessee history.

As Director McLaughlin aided in the internal alterations of the site's interpretation and advanced the historical value of not just one of the homeowners but created a more equal interpretation of all owners, other influences upon the site were beginning to take place. Internal and external influence alike can alter a site's influence on the community, creating connections between the past and present, but influences can also cause physical change to a site's interpretation creating disconnects between the site and the community.

Physical alterations to the site were brought before the Association that would have created a disconnect between the history and the site's visitors if allowed to come to fruition. In 1997 the city of Johnson City sought to widen Buffalo Road, which parallels the western boundary of the site and is fronted by the historic house.⁴⁹³ The city's plan entailed widening the street by nearly thirty feet which would have brought the road within feet of the historic house.⁴⁹⁴ In its January 1997 board meeting, the Association, along with Director McLaughlin, passed a resolution stating "that no state property that was part of the site should be taken for the widening of the road or other purposes."⁴⁹⁵ If the city's project was completed the road would have been on the door step of the main house, which would have made the house unusable, and would pave over the buffalo trace, which is a depression running parallel to the paved city street

⁴⁹³ Buffalo Road/Rolling Hills Drive Project, Some Concerns Regarding the Road Project, February 3, 1997, Buffalo Trace Greenway Records, Series V, Box 3, Folder 7, Mary Hardin McCown Archives, Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site, Johnson City, TN.

⁴⁹⁴ Joyce Loving-Pace, February 6, 1997, Buffalo Trace Greenway Records, Series V, Box 3, Folder 7, Mary Hardin McCown Archives, Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site, Johnson City, TN.

⁴⁹⁵ Tipton-Haynes Historical Association Minutes of the Board of Trustees Meeting, January 14, 1997, Tipton-Haynes Historical Association Records, Series VIII, Box, Folder 1, Mary Hardin McCown Archives, Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site, Johnson City, TN.

named Buffalo Road. The trace adds historical interpretations of nature and Native Americans that used the site before ownership by the Tipton's. Along with several concerned Tipton and Haynes descendants and local community members, the Association succeeded in their argument against the plan and the city commission rejected the widening, and Buffalo Road was left unchanged. Influences not only affect historical events but also can affect the visual aspects of historic locations, just as the city's plan would have altered the visual interpretation of the site and hindered the educational value of the historic home.

Along with the preservation of the site's history through the protection of the trace, the Association and Director McLaughlin wished to preserve the view of Buffalo Mountain to further protect the interpretation of the site and the Buffalo Trace. This was accomplished in 1999 through the creation of the new non-profit Buffalo Trace Greenway, Inc.⁴⁹⁶ This non-profit was designed to help preserve Buffalo Mountain and petitioned the Department of Environment and Conservation Lands Acquisition Committee to purchase the land West of the site between the site and the base of the mountain. This goal was accomplished in 2001 when the State of Tennessee purchased the 28.151 acres requested. The Veterans of Foreign Wars John Sevier Post 2108 splits the two properties but is named in honor of events that happened within its historical property. The act of preserving the land furthers the necessity to preserve the interpretation of the grounds because many people are visual learners and the landscape gives them something to conceptualize through sight.

In 1999 Tipton-Haynes received funding for a new museum and presentation space, and a ground breaking ceremony took place on October 14, 1999.⁴⁹⁷ The plan for this museum space

⁴⁹⁶ Charter of Buffalo Trace Greenway, Inc. Buffalo Trace Greenway Records, Series I, II, III, Box 1, Folder 3, Mary Hardin McCown Archives, Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site, Johnson City, TN.

was to create an exhibit hall to permanently preserve the history and educate the public on the events of the site before they toured the grounds. A plan was also formulated to create a temporary gallery which would contain a rotating exhibit of local histories allowing for a deeper understanding of the region and how the site adds to the region's importance. Even though construction of the museum was completed in 2000, the exhibit space remained void of historical exhibits for another twelve years due to the exhaustion of funds.⁴⁹⁸ The failure to secure funding for a permanent exhibit forced site staff to continue to interpret the history of the site as they had been through the normal tours and through donated items, such as the four Haynes family portraits donated by Rocky Mount State Historic Site.

With all the construction going on with the new museum, the Association strived to continue its annual events to keep the public interested and educated on how this site played a significant role in the region's and state's history. The annual summer program and Civil War reenactment continued as planned but the "Walk Back in Time" event that presented all the stages of pioneer life and the "Times of the Tiptons" event were canceled. In one year both the events that represented the Tipton family era were canceled, mainly due to low attendance. The site wished to remain relevant by keeping up with public interest, which appeared to be fluctuating towards the Antebellum and Civil War periods as these events appeared not to be suffering from attendance issues. As the public interest swayed to the Haynes family era it gave another increase to the historical interpretation of the Haynes' lifetime. As always, historical research continued into both the Tipton and the Haynes families to help further the accurate

⁴⁹⁷ Invitation to Ceremony, October 14, 1999, Tipton-Haynes Historical Association Records, Series VII-C, Box 4-B, Folder 11, Mary Hardin McCown Archives, Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site, Johnson City, TN.

⁴⁹⁸ "Tipton-Haynes' Newest Exhibit Open," *Johnson City Press*, October 20, 2011, Tipton-Haynes Historical Association Records, Series VII-A, Box 3, Folder 12, Mary Hardin McCown Archives, Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site, Johnson City, TN.

portrayal of the site's history, to better portray how each family lived their lives on site, and to explain how each family shaped local, state, and national history through their engagement in public affairs. The site also added a new event to help keep the interest of the public returning to the historical advantages of the grounds. The annual Sorghum Festival was added to educate the public on the process of sorghum that was used to sweeten foods in the past and to educate how the people of yester years would have to labor over the fields to keep the crop growing.⁴⁹⁹ Events such as this helped to represent not only one of the owner's daily life but all the owner's lifestyles and chores. This event aided the Association and the site's interpretation to move beyond a single-family focus and aided in the connections of the family's histories. Connections such as this helped to expand the site's history by educating the public on both families instead of choosing one over another.

In late 2001 Director McLaughlin applied for a grant from the Tennessee Civil War National Heritage Area for \$10,000.00 and received \$8,000.00 from this request.⁵⁰⁰ The money was used by herself, Trustee Joyce Loving, and Historian Ed Speers to research more fully into the life of Landon Carter Haynes. The money gave these researchers the ability to travel, make copies, and dedicate their time to uncovering material about the site's Civil War era for the museum exhibit. Unfortunately, even with the grant and all the research done on the family, historical exhibits could not be implemented in the museum because of inadequate funding to finish the exhibit space until late 2011. The research continued until grant funds were exhausted.

All the records found and collected were put into the Mary Hardin McCown Archives as the

⁴⁹⁹ To Tipton-Haynes Historical Association Trustees, from Penny McLaughlin, September 28, 2000, Tipton-Haynes Historical Association Records, Series VIII, Box 3, Folder 4, Mary Hardin McCown Archives, Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site, Johnson City, TN; Director's Report, Tipton-Haynes Historical Association Board Meeting, January 9, 2001, Tipton-Haynes Historical Association Records, Series VIII, Box 3, Folder 4, Mary Hardin McCown Archives, Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site, Johnson City, TN.

⁵⁰⁰ Tennessee Civil War National Heritage Area Grant, Tipton-Haynes Civil War Exhibit Collection, Box 1, Folder 3, Mary Hardin McCown Archives, Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site, Johnson City, TN.

Haynes Family Collection and the Tipton-Haynes Civil War Exhibit Collection.⁵⁰¹ By enhancing the site's collections, McLaughlin, Loving, and Speers were able to preserve the work that they had done for future researchers and gave a basis for the interpretation of the Haynes family for the site. Using these records, now stored on site, the staff can accurately describe the history of the Haynes family with primary source documents within the museum. Like all research on the site, current work continues to update knowledge of the site and is used by researchers and descendants alike looking into the lives of the Tipton, Haynes, and connected family's lives.

As time progressed and the site's interpretation was changing to incorporate more of the Haynes family, the Association and its director created two new events, which reflected the Tipton family through the creation of "Andre Michaux Travels in Northeast Tennessee" event and the "Maple Syrup Festival" in 2004.⁵⁰² The event honoring Andre Michaux, a French botanist that stayed at with Colonel Tipton twice, was established to represent Michaux, the plant life he discovered, and the Tipton family for boarding him. The "Maple Syrup Festival" encompassed historical living during the pioneer and antebellum eras and the production of the sweetener which was a chore for all eras of the site. This event also continued the "Battle of the Lost State of Franklin" to honor the Tipton family and their achievements within the battle and the movement. Unfortunately, the battle was canceled the following year. Both these events represent the interpretations of the Tipton family over the Haynes but also represent how the site had begun to equalize interpretations of the owners of the home. The Tipton family was interpreted through the Andre Michaux days and the Maple Syrup festival, while the Haynes

⁵⁰¹ Tipton-Haynes Civil War Exhibit Collection, Box 1-5, Mary Hardin McCown Archives, Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site, Johnson City, TN.

⁵⁰² Tipton-Haynes Historical Association Calendar of events and Scheduled Meetings, Tipton-Haynes Historical Association Records, Series VIII, Box 4, Folder 2, Tipton-Haynes Historical Association Records, Mary Hardin McCown Archives, Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site, Johnson City, TN.

were interpreted through the “Visions of Christmas and the Civil War reenactment that replaced the State of Franklin Battle the following year.”⁵⁰³

Also hosted in 2004 was a presentation titled “Free at Last: Now Let Me Fly.”⁵⁰⁴ The presentation interpreted slavery at the site, a topic that the founding Association members sought to eliminate from interpretation during the site's early years. On November 1st, a student from East Tennessee State University and a local storyteller, Chetter Galloway, interpreted the lives of three African American slaves -- George Haynes, slave of Landon Carter Haynes, and Edward and Josephine Taylor, slaves of Nathaniel Greene Taylor, brother-in-law to Landon Carter Haynes.⁵⁰⁵ With the inclusion of the slave cabin on site, interest in the lives of the Tipton and Haynes family slaves began to grow and the Association believed that a presentation of this kind would interest of the public. This is another physical alteration to the site’s interpretation as the addition of the cabin aided in the expansion of slave interpretation on site.

Chetter Galloway researched the lives of the three slaves to interpret accurately how these slaves were treated, but also to represent how slaves in general were treated and used in the region. This gave a much-needed push into the understanding of the historical members, both African American and white, of the site. Galloway's interpretative abilities were used again in 2011 as the site was finally able to begin work on a museum exhibit. He was tasked with interpreting the life of the site’s mulatto slave George Haynes for a short educational video to be placed in the exhibit titled “I Am A Slave.”⁵⁰⁶ The film was to represent the life of George

⁵⁰³ Ibid.

⁵⁰⁴ “Special Events for 2004,” *Tipton-Haynes Link*, 13, 1 & 2, 4, Tipton-Haynes Historical Association Records, Series VIII, Box 4, Folder 2, Tipton-Haynes Historical Association Records, Mary Hardin McCown Archives, Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site, Johnson City, TN.

⁵⁰⁵ Ibid.

⁵⁰⁶ “I am A Slave,” Exhibit Hall, Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site, Johnson City, TN.

Haynes and the work that he would have done on site to operate the farm for Landon Carter Haynes. The video still plays today as a much-needed interpretative tool of the life of George, but also as an educational tool into the lives of slaves in this region.

In 2008 the site undertook one of the largest interpretative alterations since its opening in 1971. In early June, University of Tennessee, Knoxville graduate student Daniel Brock and his assistant Dustin Lawson moved into the apartment built adjacent to the museum for the caretaker of the property, as part of an agreement between the Association and Brock while he completed his thesis. His thesis “Contextualizing the Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site (40WG59): Understanding Landscape Change at an Upland South Farmstead,” entailed Brock undertaking archeological digs on site and conducting dendrochronological testing, which is an evaluation of tree rings to discover the age of a tree when felled or cut for lumber.⁵⁰⁷ As a result of the tests on several logs in the main house and corn crib, the findings of Brock’s research changed the site's interpretation forever.

Prior to Brock's tests the historic cabin associated with Colonel John Tipton was believed to have been built in 1784 when he moved to what would become East Tennessee from the Shenandoah Valley, Virginia, but Brock determined that the oldest log dated from between 1798 and 1799.⁵⁰⁸ The testing of the home did not overly alter the interpretation, for the Association knew that the home had been renovated by the Tipton and Haynes families throughout their ownerships. The interpretation of the main house referred to the expansions of the structure done by Tipton Jr. and Landon Carter Haynes, only altering the interpretation slightly with the inclusion of these dates. However, this discovery did compel consideration of new theories to

⁵⁰⁷ Daniel Whitaker Howard Brock, “Contextualizing the Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site (40WG59): Understanding Landscape Change at an Upland South Farmstead,” (Master’s thesis, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, 2012), 179-192.

⁵⁰⁸ Ibid.

why historic records explain the origins of the home in 1784 and nothing of the refurbished logs in 1798-99. One theory, with Colonel Tipton was still living at this time replaced the logs as needed to keep the home as a functioning living space; this is the most likely scenario because some of the logs tested were under the house. Another theory is that in the 1960s, when the site was being restored, two log cabins were donated to the site and disassembled to make use of the logs. It was possible that the new logs were used to shore up the main cabin during the restoration projects but was disputed due to the tested logs date rang that did not match the two cabins that were donated dates.

The main alteration to the site's interpretation came as the dendrochronological testing moved to the corncrib. Along with the site's original barn, the corn crib had been interpreted as being built by Colonel John Tipton when he moved from Virginia. The buildings had been a major talking point of the tour as visitors moved through the site and walked into a Tipton constructed barn over 200 years old. Even Director McLaughlin until the testing in 2008, interpreted the structures as being erected by the Tipton family just as the Association had believed for decades. The testing proved otherwise because Brock discovered that the corncrib had been erected in 1850 and 1851.⁵⁰⁹ The dating of the structures is well after the time of Tipton ownership only making the structures construction feasible for the Haynes family. The site had to change its interpretation of the buildings to present the evidentiary history. The dating of these buildings drastically changed the way the site was viewed because three of the four buildings thought to be originally built by the Tipton family were constructed during the Haynes family era and the fourth was in question. The tours took a different route in order to explain the chronological construction of the site and to explain how the barn and corncrib would be used in

⁵⁰⁹ Daniel Whitaker Howard Brock, "Contextualizing the Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site (40WG59): Understanding Landscape Change at an Upland South Farmstead," (Master's thesis, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, 2012), 184.

the pre-Civil War era instead of the late pioneer era. Further records provided proof of the dating of the buildings as a deed puts the slave George up for collateral around the same years as the construction of these buildings.⁵¹⁰ It is believed that if L.C. Haynes could not afford his debts on the building of the corncrib, barn, and summer kitchen then George was to be sold to pay his debts. This was one of the largest changes to the site's interpretation but gives a true insight into how research and discovery can alter the understanding and interpretation of the past.

As the Tipton-Haynes interpretation underwent major changes due to the discovery of the building construction dates, a new tour had to be devised, but it was not to remain in use for long. The site opened to the public in 1971 and did not receive a formal museum exhibit until Fall 2011.⁵¹¹ Construction of the exhibit started in late 2010 and finished September 23, 2011, when the site hosted a grand opening ceremony for the much-desired historical exhibit.⁵¹² When completed, the tour was once again altered to discuss much of the construction of the historic house or the items in each room. Prior to the exhibit the rooms were simply used to help break the tour up into sections about the historic families. After the museum opened, most of the information of the Tipton and Haynes families could be found on many of the panels and did not need to be restated on the tour. Director McLaughlin reorganized the tour to expand the information presented but also included what the rooms were and how some of the items in the rooms were used. This was also a part of her expansion into the idea of inclusion on tours. She

⁵¹⁰ Deed of Trust, Landon Carter Haynes, February 19, 1852, Tipton-Haynes Historical Association Records, Series 1, Box 1, Folder 22, Mary Hardin McCown Collection, Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site, Johnson City, TN.

⁵¹¹ Tipton-Haynes Historical Association Invitation, April 17, 1971, Mary Hardin McCown Collection, Box, 8, Folder 13, Mary Hardin McCown Archives, Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site, Johnson City, TN.

⁵¹² "Tipton-Haynes' Newest Exhibit Open," *Johnson City Press*, October 20, 2011, Tipton-Haynes Historical Association Records, Series VII-A, Box 3, Folder 12, Mary Hardin McCown Archives, Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site, Johnson City, TN.

believed that the inclusion and investment of the visitors into what they were seeing would increase the positive responses to the history being explained in each room and implemented this to increase the public's interest in the site. So, the tour was altered for the museum to teach the direct history of the site while the walking tour was to interpret the lives of the families in each room through the items donated to the site. This allowed for a renewed interest in the site and an ever-expanding interpretation as items are donated each year, although the Association had to keep a watchful eye on the tours because guides were given more flexibility to interpret the site. It is not the desire of the Association to interpret wrong information, so further research into the items within the home was needed. Even with caution the guides were and are able to interact with the visitors to a fuller and more enjoyable experience by allowing the visitors to connect to the history through physical interactions with the items of the home.

The site took on a new research project in 2014 to expand the educational boundaries of the site and created the “Guidebook.”⁵¹³ This book represented the complete history of the site as it was interpreted and recorded. The book included all the information from the museum and information on the site itself about the buildings and their construction. It is an excellent source of information on the site, giving detail of the site’s history in one source. After the book was completed, and still to the current day, the guidebook is given out, along with the docent manuals, to tour guides and volunteers to learn the history of the site to begin their interpretations. It is only after they learn the history of the site and its families that they are allowed to add their own interpretative flair to the tours. Each person is different and brings their own information to the tour, but it is necessary to understand what must be presented to the visitor before anything can be added. It is through these additions to the tour though that aid in

⁵¹³ *O Beautiful Land of the Mountains: A History of Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site* (Self Published, Tipton-Haynes Historical Association, 2014),

connecting the history to the visitors.⁵¹⁴ A straight history tour can leave a person stagnant and overwhelmed with the wealth of information, but through the inclusion of small interesting historical stories and artifact descriptions one can connect the visitors to a period in time.

Also, in 2011 the site participated in the sesquicentennial of the Civil War through two events. The "Springtime in Haynesville" event was revived, and the Visions of Christmas event was restructured to represent the years of the Civil War.⁵¹⁵ For 2011, the reenactments focused on the life of soldiers in 1861 as the war was just beginning. The events were also to represent how the Haynes family was honored throughout the South as a pro-Confederate family with Haynes' election as the Confederate Senator.⁵¹⁶ The Haynesville event was a small encampment for visitors to see soldiers' lives as the Confederacy was gearing up for war. As each year progressed both the reenactment and "Visions of Christmas" events interpreted the Haynes family and the Civil War to its most accurate ability. This was to educate the public on the Haynes' involvement throughout the war and the expansion of the Confederate army over the years of fighting. The importance of the sesquicentennial created another alteration to the site and its interpretation. Tipton-Haynes began representing a lot of the Haynes history, replacing much of the Tipton history. This was in-part due to the year being the 150th anniversary of the Civil War outbreak.⁵¹⁷ The Tipton history was and is still well represented throughout the site, its

⁵¹⁴ Franklin D. Vagnone and Deborah E. Ryan, *Anarchist's Guide to Historic House Museums* (Walnut Creek, California: Left Coast Press, 2016), 95-97

⁵¹⁵ James W. Bellamy, "The Political Career of Landon Carter Haynes," (Master's thesis, The University of Tennessee, 1952), 64.

⁵¹⁶ "Tipton-Haynes takes visitors back to 1861," *Johnson City Press*, April 25, 2011, 9A, Tipton-Haynes Historical Association Records, Series VII-A, Box 3, Folder 12, Mary Hardin McCown Archives, Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site, Johnson City, TN.

⁵¹⁷ "Sesquicentennial150," Civil War Journey, February 15, 2013, accessed November 5, 2019, https://www.civil-war-journeys.org/sesquicentennial_150.htm.

museum, and the site's tours but has been reduced to help with the inclusion of Landon Carter Haynes and his family. Springtime in Haynesville and Visions of Christmas continue to this day as presentations of the Civil War, Landon Carter Haynes, and his time in the home.

With little change to the interpretation of the site after the creation of the Guidebook and the inclusion of the sesquicentennial events the site began to settle into a consistent interpretation. The site told the most factual stories of the historical events as the Association knew it at the time and continued to educate the public on both the Tipton and the Haynes families. Unfortunately, this all changed once more in January, 2016 when the Association dismissed Penny McLaughlin, the director for almost twenty-five years, and installed an interim until a permanent replacement could be found.⁵¹⁸ John Parrish, an Association trustee and the president of the Tipton Family Association of America was chosen as interim director.⁵¹⁹ History is interpreted differently by each person and should be as accurate as possible but as time progresses these tales can change depending on who is interpreting. The site had settled into a comfortable era of education and interpretation, but with the dismissal of McLaughlin, Parrish began to revamp the history and presentation of the site to reflect his own interests.

Parrish believed that the site insufficiently represented the history of the Tipton family and only spent its interpretive time on the Haynes family. Through hard work and perseverance, the Association had altered the interpretation of the site to be an equal representation of all the owners of the property. Parrish believed that the site spent too much time on the Haynes family and that it had become a Haynes family site only. He took it upon himself to change the vision of the site once more back to the Tipton family. Parrish, as the president of a Tipton family

⁵¹⁸ Tipton-Haynes Board of Trustees called meeting minutes, January 12, 2016, Filing Cabinet 3, Row 3, Fy 2015-2016, Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site, Johnson City, TN.

⁵¹⁹ Ibid.

organization, possibly wished to see the descendants of the Tipton family hold more influence over the site.

As Parrish became more familiar with the site, he began to do all the site tours for the visitors. No volunteer or other staff member was able to conduct the tour unless Parrish was off site or already on a tour. Parrish's restriction was prompted by his wish to propagate a revised interpretation of the site. Parrish interpreted the site as being almost solely owned by the Tipton family and had little interpretation of the Haynes family. This form of tour resembled heavily the tours of the original Association from 1971 when the site first opened. It consisted of a majority of Tipton family history and lore while the Haynes family received only brief mention when visitors entered the law office. Tours of this fashion began to alter the interpretation of the site once more, but not for the better, as large sections of the site's history were once more being left out and left up to the public to discover on their own.

Another aspect of Parrish's changes to the site's interpretation was to change the museum exhibit that was just formally opened less than four years prior to his directorship. Upon opening, the museum/exhibit received an Award of Distinction from the East Tennessee Historical Society because the museum engaged visitors with "a multimedia display of objects, videos, images, and narratives to present the story of this remarkable site and those associated with it..."⁵²⁰ Parrish strove to rewrite many of the text panels within the museum to represent the Tipton family in better standing and to eliminate many of the panels on the Haynes family. This disregard of history could have drastically altered the path of the site and the presentation of the site's history. Another reason he wished to replace the panels of the Haynes family was that the exhibit was more obvious Haynes history, but this is solely because of the portraits and images of the Haynes

⁵²⁰ East Tennessee Historical Society Announces Regional Excellence in History Award, May 17, 2012, Series VIII, Box 4, Folder 2, Tipton-Haynes Historical Association Records, Mary Hardin McCown Archives, Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site, Johnson City, TN.

family included in the exhibit. The presence of the portraits gives a more visual feel to the visitors allowing for one to connect with the person, but it seemed in Parrish's view it was more of a distraction from the Tipton family.

Parrish did succeed in changing interpretation of the site through the use and explanations of the mill stones that sit out front of the visitor center. These stones were donated to the site by a Joseph Tipton Jr. from Hawkins County, Tennessee, and were to be used to interpret David Haynes', role as a millwright, who may have worked on the stones during his lifetime.⁵²¹ David Haynes would have traveled to Hawkins County for work and to support his family. The Tennessee State Museum in Nashville requested from the Association one of the fifteen stones.⁵²² The state's request was granted by Interim Director Parrish, but the information he shared on the stones to the state museum represented only the Tipton family and not the accepted interpretation of David Haynes.⁵²³ Parrish wished the state museum to interpret the stones as if they were owned by John Tipton Jr. because a windmill was sold in his estate record and because the stones were donated to the site by a Tipton descendant.⁵²⁴ Interim director John Parrish sent in his resignation in July, 2016, formally ending his time at the site.⁵²⁵ The Association quickly began restoring the site's interpretation to what it had been before Parrish became director, integrating information about the Haynes family back into the educational elements offered to visitors. For example, upon the discovery of the incorrect interpretation, almost a year later, the

⁵²¹ Tipton-Haynes Collections Forms, 2010.03.01-2010.03.16, Millstones, May 21, 2010 Tipton-Haynes Archival filing Cabinet 1, Row 4, Mary Hardin McCown Archives, Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site, Johnson City, TN.

⁵²² Dan Pomeroy, email message to John Parrish, February 29, 2016.

⁵²³ John Parrish, email message to Dan Pomeroy, February 27, 2016.

⁵²⁴ Estate Record of John Tipton Jr., Washington County Inventory Book 1, 1826-34, Jonesborough TN, 143,

⁵²⁵ John Parrish email message to Tipton-Haynes Historical Association, July 23, 2016. Directors Report, Fy 2016-2017.

new Associate Director, Wesley Spurgeon, wrote the state museum to inform them of the changes the previous interim director had made to the site's interpretation and to the issue concerning the mill stone.⁵²⁶ The state museum was then forced to rewrite text panels for the exhibit that they had created around the stone.

Influencing the site in other ways are secondary works that detail the site's history and interpret the site's owners. These works all giving new influential thought to the history of the site and its tours, while other works represent how external influence can drastically change a site's representation. In *The New History in an Old Museum*, Richard Handler and Eric Gable, address the constraints and struggles of Colonial Williamsburg as the board and staff alter the interpret the site and remain the nation's largest first person interpreted site.⁵²⁷ The authors illustrate how each new decade challenged the museum, not just through its presentation to the public, such as first and third person tours, but also the alterations it had to confront due to public interest, such as alterations to the physical layout of the site and their belief of the site as a theme park other than a museum.⁵²⁸ They explain how external forces wanting to change the public view can influence a site's interpretation. For example, Williamsburg went through drastic changes during World War II, as public interest caused the alteration of the interpretation to reflect the site's patriotism and nationalism.⁵²⁹

Another internal influence on non-profit sites is the connection between the board of trustees and directors. Like Colonial Williamsburg, Tipton-Haynes is run by a board of trustees with paid staff running the day-to-day operations. This connection keeps order within a site and

⁵²⁶ Wesley Spurgeon, email message to Dan Pomeroy, September 23, 2016.

⁵²⁷ Richard Handler, Eric Gable, *The New History in an Old Museum Creating the Past at Colonial Williamsburg* (Durham, North Carolina: Duke University Press, 1997), 3-6.

⁵²⁸ *Ibid.*, 28-31.

⁵²⁹ *Ibid.*, 63-65.

allows for a chain of command, not leaving any one person to make decisions. Though governance may be unique to each site, the idea of boards remains important. Colonial Williamsburg still has a functioning board that makes interpretative decisions for the site, determines how the site should change for the future, and then passes down direction to the paid staff. Tipton-Haynes has a different view. When the site opened to the public in 1971, the site was solely controlled by a governing board and operated by volunteers, but as time progressed the board began to realize the necessity for paid staff on site every day. However, unlike the Colonial Williamsburg board, the governing board of the Tipton-Haynes Historical Association and the sites' directors did not always work well together. These disagreements were brought on by influence of slavery and influence of control. The Colonial Williamsburg board operates the site and disseminates work down to their paid staff while listening to the staff's opinions, but this cannot be said for the Tipton-Haynes Association. Director Faith Stahl resigned from her position over the issue of slave interpretations. Tipton-Haynes also struggled when the Association board decided to remove Director McLaughlin only to discover that they had made a grave mistake with their choice of interim director. Many different forces, internal and external, can influence historic sites, including the site's own governing board.

Management has a massive influence on the control of the site and its interpretation but with Tipton-Haynes, under the directorship of John Parrish and with the board taking a back seat to the director, no oversight was given until it was too late. The authors, Handler and Gable, speak highly of the oversight of the Colonial Williamsburg board and present them as being influential in the role of Williamsburg over the years to the public but also criticized the board on some of the decisions that had been enacted overtime.⁵³⁰ Each museum has a different view on how

⁵³⁰ Ibid., 163.

management shall run, but one must be vigilant to honor and protect the goals of a site while also remaining in the public eye.

External factors can alter the path of museums whether they were meant to or not. For example, the Civil Rights movement from 1954 to 1968 altered the path of museums nationwide by expanding the national recognition of the African American Community.⁵³¹ The struggles of the African American community of this nation were finally faced when the Civil Rights Act was passed in 1964.⁵³² This prevailed by bringing rights to African Americans that whites had enjoyed for generations. This unwittingly sparked a necessity to expand historical influence to cover the lives of the African American people in America's past. Museums across the nation began representing African American history and slavery, which gave new interpretations to their sites. Colonial Williamsburg is one of those sites that made a simpler transition into this period, partly to their size and public awareness, but for sites throughout the American South this was a much harder struggle.⁵³³ The influence of slavery and livelihood of African Americans were not as easily accepted in museums and historical interpretations. In the work *Slavery and Public History the Tough Stuff of American Memory*, edited by James Oliver Horton and Lois E. Horton, they traverse the south and the struggles of the inclusion of slavery into the historical interpretation and how it was accepted amongst the public. The work was a collection of essays by many authors and their opinions on how slavery is accepted in interpretations and most

⁵³¹ James Oliver Horton, Lois E. Horton, *Slavery and Public History: The Tough Stuff of American Memory* (New York: The New Press, 2006), vii-xiv.

⁵³² United States. Civil Rights Acts of 1957, 1960, 1964, 1968, and Voting Rights Act of 1965. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government. Printing Office, 1969.

⁵³³ Marie Tyler-McGraw, "Southern Comfort Levels: Race, Heritage Tourism, and the Civil War in Richmond," in *Slavery and Public History: The Tough Stuff of American Memory*, ed. James Oliver Horton and Lois E. Horton (New York: The New Press, 2006), 151-167.

represent how slavery is shunned by the public or the interpreter in some fashion.⁵³⁴ Several speak to how the interpreter on tours will call the site's slaves, servants to avoid the word slave, while other tours will not mention it at all unless asked about.⁵³⁵ This limits the interpretive goals of any site to spread the truth of their history through choice but also the uneasiness that had been created around the Civil Rights Movement.

Another example of this is not just the tour guides and sites shunned the history, but how the public did and still have a hard time hearing about slavery. The Hortons explain how to some people slavery is an event in time not to be interpreted, explained, or shared with the public due to the harsh nature of the subject.⁵³⁶ The Hortons' refute this by explaining that not all history is easily accepted but it happened and should be told. One must understand the past to influence their future decisions. An example of this at Tipton-Haynes is the resignation of director Faith Stahl. The Association had taken many steps to eliminate this from the site's history as they denied Stahl's request and had even torn down a building on site believed to be a slave cabin. The original museum building was built to be interpreted as a slave cabin, but they refused to inform the public of its importance. The influence of the Civil Rights Movement continued to spread, but left the south struggling with its acceptance, which Tipton-Haynes did not fully embrace until the placement of the current day George Haynes Slave Cabin on site in 2001 under a new board and director. This altered the site's interpretation drastically by opening the site to a new story of the slaves and their families that lived on this property. The inclusion of slave history allowed a once unknown topic to educate the public not just on the men and women that

⁵³⁴ Ibid. VII-XIV.

⁵³⁵ Joanne Melish, "Recovering (from) Slavery: Four Struggles to Tell the Truth," in *Slavery and Public History: The Tough Stuff of American Memory*, ed. James Oliver Horton and Lois E. Horton (New York: The New Press, 2006), 116

⁵³⁶ Edward T. Linenthal, "Epilogue: Reflections," in *Slavery and Public History: The Tough Stuff of American Memory* (New York: The New Press, 2006), 213-214

lived on the property but about the men and women that time almost forgot. Informing the visitors on this new topic helped to open discussion regarding the lives of all who lived on site and how they were treated. External influence on museums such as the Civil Rights Movement meant to have changed historical interpretations, and they have had lasting effects on sites across the nation.

Illustrating community involvement and influence on the creation of historic sites is shown through the work *Domesticating History: The Political Origins of America's House Museums*, by Patricia West.⁵³⁷ This work traverses the beginnings of house museums and what group or groups helped open the site to the public. The work does not mention much history in terms of each of the museums discussed but speaks mainly to the roles that women played in creating them and operating each site. This is represented as West describes each case study and how women began work to preserve the sites. The author believed that these women's groups saved many of the nation's historic homeplaces for future representation and interpretation. Needed financial connections for these groups to succeed in opening these sites were made through the women's groups husbands and their political contacts. Many of the women researched for the book were well-connected to politics through their husbands or went before politicians to speak on the museum's behalf requesting assistance in the preservation of America's pastime. Using these connections, the men brought funds to the historic house museums and helped establish them. This took a turn as men realized that these ventures became a viable form of work and took over the museum directorships, and curatorial jobs pushing

⁵³⁷ Patricia West, *Domesticating History the Political Origins of America's House Museums* (Washington D.C: Smithsonian Institution Press, 1999), xi-xiii.

women out of the work place.⁵³⁸ The men felt that the educational level of women was not high enough to run such lucrative businesses.

The movement to create historic sites that represented the Tennessee history was first started by Governor Prentice Cooper in the early 1940's.⁵³⁹ As Tipton-Haynes became a possibility, the non-profit that formed to run it in 1965 was first run by women.⁵⁴⁰ Men did assist in the restoration and operations of the site, but for the first nine years of the Association's history women operated the site on a daily basis and were presidents of the board of directors. Although, just as in West's work, the Association presidents were forced to use political and financial connections through their husbands to operate and grow the site. Through these connections, the site began to see a shift in political control. In 1974 Carl Jones was elected president after which the position remained firmly in the hands of men for another ten years.⁵⁴¹ Women still operated the site on a daily basis, which can be seen through other positions on the board, the position of director of volunteers, organizing programs, and events that the site hosted throughout the 1970s and 1980s.⁵⁴² In Contrast West's book explained how the men pushed out the women and continued to use their funding and political connections to aid the site. However, at Tipton-Haynes women ran the site and kept the doors open for the public as director. From 1983 with the first director Faith Stahl until 2016 when Penny McLaughlin left the site, women

⁵³⁸ Ibid, 49-50.

⁵³⁹ Tennessee Historical Commission Meeting Minutes, Book 1940-1949, November 8, 1943, page 4. Discussion of Purchase of Tipton-Haynes and the Cobb House.

⁵⁴⁰ Tipton-Haynes Historical Association Charter, January 12, 1965, Tipton-Haynes Historical Association Records, Series 1, Box 1, Folder 2, Mary Hardin McCown Archives, Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site.

⁵⁴¹ Tipton-Haynes Historical Association Annual Meeting Minutes, November 4, 1974, Tipton-Haynes Historical Association Records, Series II-A, Box 1, Folder 3, Mary Hardin McCown Archives, Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site, Johnson City TN.

⁵⁴² Ibid.

held the position of director of the site's day-to-day operations. Also, the Association under the leadership of a male president in the early years still relied heavily on the order of female support on the daily operations of Tipton-Haynes unlike the men in the work by West. The Association chose not to continue to push for financial help as the women had and relied on the women's ability to operate the site. These actions can be seen as the Association implemented a volunteer/docent director to help organize the site which in every case was a female. Without the support of the ongoing external connections that the women had been pushing for financial struggles arose for the Association.⁵⁴³

A reason for this is attributed to how much these women did for the site as volunteers and rolled this involvement into the directorship position. However, Director Penny McLaughlin took this a step further. Although West's book is written about sites and their creation from the mid-1800s through the early 1930s and the educational opportunities for women were different, Director McLaughlin and her term as director from 1991-2016 showed that women were welcomed into the workplace and have challenged restrictions of workplace and educational opportunities. Director McLaughlin obtained her Ed. D Degree in Educational Administration from East Tennessee State University and was hired as the director in 1991.⁵⁴⁴ This represented how McLaughlin erased stereotypes and led the site into a new era of interpretive expansion. She took the site from a few events throughout the year and little funding to seven events and continuously filed for grants to keep the site open.⁵⁴⁵ She also used her connections and

⁵⁴³ Tipton-Haynes Historical Association Meeting Minutes, November 4, 1974-1983, financial Report, Tipton-Haynes Historical Association Records, Series II-D, Box 4, Folder 2-3, Mary Hardin McCown Archives, Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site, Johnson City TN.

⁵⁴⁴ Resume for Penny McLaughlin, Tipton-Haynes Historical Association Records, Series II-A, Box 1, Folder 7, Mary Hardin McCown Archives, Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site, Johnson City, TN.

⁵⁴⁵ Events of 2015, Tipton-Haynes Historical Association Records, Series VII-C, Box 4-B, Folder 31, Mary Hardin McCown Archives, Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site, Johnson City, TN.

education to research and expand on the site interpretive tours allowing for a fuller understanding into the history of the site. West's book detailing the movement, tenacity, and desire to save the nation's history gives credence to the impact that women have had on the historical field and allows for a new understanding into the growing historical field of women's studies. The sites she represented, Tipton-Haynes, and many more across the nation, all have seen the struggles of positions of men and women in the work place, no matter the era, and continue to survive today as both sexes now share a more equal responsibility operating historic sites.

The field of Women's Studies is still growing in the overall multi-disciplinary field of history. West's work only furthers the research into how women were leading members of the historical field and fought to protect the history of this nation. Tipton-Haynes quickly grasped the expansion of women's roles in the historical field and the work place as the Association hired Penny McLaughlin whom had also obtained two masters degrees by her hiring, and held many years of experience in the historical field, but Tipton-Haynes unfortunately did not keep up with the growing movement of women's studies within its interpretation. The site did incorporate the women of the home into the site's tour but only as the wives and children of the main owners. They were not recognized as their own persons and all but forgotten in the history of the site. The current interpretation of the Tipton-Haynes site now interprets the women of the home alongside their husbands as important residents of the property. The national movement of women in the workplace and in historical studies was a bridge between another demographic of visitors which the site had not covered for the first fifty years of its existence.

Though Patricia West's work is focused on public history and the evolution of the historic house museums in the United States, she confronted an issue in historical politics that still rages today. The underlying issue was on men and women's gender roles in the work place

and the funding struggles faced by historic sites which continuously alter the paths of these museums.⁵⁴⁶ The gender roles of the men and women are of more equal standards than discussed in West's book today but the issues of raising funds through political means still emanates greatly in today's society.

Another work that captures many struggles in the nation today for historic house museums is *Anarchist Guide to Historic House Museums*, written by Franklin D. Vagnone and Deborah E. Ryan.⁵⁴⁷ This work represented the challenges that historic house museums face and tried to educate the reader on ways to overcome them. These challenges, but not limited to, are financing, community outreach, and interpretation.

Vagnone and Ryan sought to prevent the closure of American historical sites and museums by discussing how alterations to interpretations could aid a site in remaining relevant to their guest.⁵⁴⁸ The author's attempted to bridge the gap between history museums and today's public interest, giving the house museums new life and meaning to the public. Without alterations to interpretation or alterations to their presentation, sites such as Tipton-Haynes may be forced to close. The authors research has shown that one of the largest downfalls of museums in today's society is the use of first-person interpretation of sites.⁵⁴⁹ It leaves little room for variation and tends to be very scripted. This causes the interpreter and the guests to be disconnected giving off a possible alternate understanding of the history being presented.⁵⁵⁰

⁵⁴⁶ Patricia West, *Domesticating History: The Political Origins of America's House Museums* (Washington D.C.: Smithsonian Institution Press, 1999), 49-50.

⁵⁴⁷ Franklin D. Vagnone and Deborah E. Ryan, *Anarchist's Guide to Historic House Museums* (Walnut Creek, California: Left Coast Press, 2016), 33-37.

⁵⁴⁸ *Ibid.*, 33-37.

⁵⁴⁹ *Ibid.*, 84-88.

⁵⁵⁰ *Ibid.*

Large scale historic sites, such as Colonial Williamsburg, still represent their histories in first person but break character to a third person interpretation once the history has been presented.⁵⁵¹ By doing this, it gives more of a connection to the guests and allows them to ask questions freely without receiving an answer from the period that is hard to grasp by the people with today's perspective. Tipton-Haynes is not faced with this struggle for it does third person interpretations of the grounds, except for their winter event, "Visions of Christmas." This event is a first-person tour through the home, interpreting the birthday of Landon Carter Haynes and Christmas throughout the Civil War.⁵⁵² Recently Tipton-Haynes started to break away from first-person in the event to include third-person portions. One of the authors main points in the work is to strengthen the connections between visitors and historic sites and by moving away from first person within the event Tipton-Haynes grasped the reasoning behind the authors argument.

The struggles of connecting to guest are not just limited to first person locations. This is a growing problem as many sites interpret the history and forget that the average person may not know of what the interpreter is saying. The visitors to the sites have to take what you are saying as true on tours, but without something to grasp, visualize, or smell the visitor could potentially be lost to the overwhelming amount of facts that are being presented. This is solved through what Vagnone and Ryan call touch rooms and through changes of interpretive stories.⁵⁵³ These two expansions to interpretation are not meant to change history, just the way it is presented to the public saving a sites mission and values from alteration. Touch rooms allow visitors to a site to interact with historical items and manipulate them giving the visitors a physical connection to

⁵⁵¹ Richard Handler, Eric Gable, *The New History in an Old Museum: Creating the Past at Colonial Williamsburg* (Durham, North Carolina: Duke University Press, 1997), 18.

⁵⁵² "Visions of Christmas: 1865," Tipton-Haynes Historical Association Records, Series VII-C, Box 4-B, Folder 31, Mary Hardin McCown Archives, Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site, Johnson City, TN.

⁵⁵³ Franklin D. Vagnone and Deborah E. Ryan, *Anarchist's Guide to Historic House Museums* (Walnut Creek, California: Left Coast Press, 2016), 120-127.

materials in the home. Tipton-Haynes has been using this interpretive skill for years in its historic home. Under the directorship of Penny McLaughlin, the site created two touch rooms in the house, the girl's bedroom and the summer kitchen. These rooms were to represent the history of the site through items that any visitor could pick up and use and showed how families of that time would have lived in those rooms and in the home. Also, the site created what they called activity boxes. These boxes are used during school fieldtrips that visit the site to educate children on items from the past. Two of the boxes are the pioneer box and old-time toys. These boxes are filled with replica items that represent the historical families. While being passed around and enjoyed, the volunteer or staff member speaks about the item, its use, and the families that used it. This interpretation is better grasped by the public by being able to physically touch history and hear the uses of each item while also incorporating the sites history.

Changes to the interpretive story also change the way the public visualize historic sites. This could be seen when Tipton-Haynes altered its tour to represent more of the site's structures once the museum exhibit opened. The tours of the site were able to expand on the site's history into the lives of the inhabitants and their families, which opened the tour to more interpretation, though not significantly, and expanded the basis of interest in the site. This new tour was able to expand the interest through the descriptions of each building and their uses instead of just being used a stop on an overloaded historical fact-based tour. Other additions to the site's interpretation not only came from the inclusion of building history but also through the interpretation of items in the home. As new items are donated to museums, they can be added to these touch rooms giving a better understanding of life in the past. New and rotating items allow for a changing scenario giving a different interpretation each time. This also allows for a person to connect to different pieces of history each visit they make without changing the overall goals and

interpretation of the historic sites. Vagnone and Ryan highly recommend museum implement involvement and connections to the public during the tours to give a sense of interest in the person visiting in which Director McLaughlin had implemented long before the book was released.

Another form of connection of interpretation to the public that the authors traverse is the ideal behind age gaps.⁵⁵⁴ This is due to the difference in the tours that are given to adults versus the younger generation. The age gap can drastically change what one understands and should change what is presented to the public. The gap also can cause a difference of opinion across generations such as the concept of slavery. Many of the older generation will listen to the interpretation while many of the younger generation might not. Another issue of an age gap in interpretations actually comes from the connections of the surrounding communities and support for historic sites. Support can wane if the site is presenting what one believes to be untruthful or against their current beliefs. It is the desire for Tipton-Haynes to interpret fact, no matter if it is harsh or not. However, reaching out to these supporters could have a drastic alteration on interpretation as their support is necessary to keep the doors open, but their interest may not align with the site's goals. This can be seen through age differences by observing the difference of opinions and lifestyles of older and younger generations in the use of contemporary interpretations.⁵⁵⁵ What interests one generation does not always interest another, so, the authors suggest that outreach programs know their audience to align what is presented to the public to keep interest growing for the sites no matter the generational or interest gap.⁵⁵⁶

⁵⁵⁴ Franklin D. Vagnone and Deborah E. Ryan, *Anarchist's Guide to Historic House Museums* (Walnut Creek, California: Left Coast Press, 2016), 47-50, 54-59.

⁵⁵⁵ Ibid, 149-154.

⁵⁵⁶ Ibid., 54-59.

The connections to the community are not as cut and dry as the authors recommend of historic sites across the nation. Tipton-Haynes is no different. Community's around historic sites can either be their largest supports or have very little interaction with the site. Tipton-Haynes is of the latter. The community around the historic site has little to do with the historic land and typically do not attend any of its events. A select few of the community members do attend the site events or volunteer, but not on a regular basis. This shows that even through efforts of the site's outreach programs, many people still choose not to support local organizations. The authors of the *Anarchist Guide* describe that speaking to the community could develop a mass support group for historic house museums, but this is not always the case.⁵⁵⁷

Though *Anarchist Guide* is a relatively new work, many of the suggestions the authors raise to aid historic sites have been implemented at Tipton-Haynes for years and continue to aid the site in the expansion of its interpretation and visitor base. Like many house museums and historic sites, Tipton-Haynes has one specific tour that is presented to the public with different variations depending on the interpreter. One tour with different variations can offer a specific encounter with history for diverse audiences. Tipton-Haynes' tour does cover men, women, children, and slaves of the site and how they would have lived. The addition of the women, children, and slaves to the tour alters the interpretation from the descriptions solely on the men of the site and relates the point that the authors of *Anarchist Guide* were recommended struggling house museums to change. In relation to the additions to the tour the Tipton-Haynes interpretation also has a slave tour and a women's tour upon request to give a deeper connection not only to the men that owned the historic homes but a more in depth understanding to the people that helped support it. These connections to history help expand the public interest by involving history that is typically brushed over or not spoken of.

⁵⁵⁷ Ibid.

The *Anarchist Guide* and *The New History in and Old Museum* both speak to this necessity to connect to the public and how national movements should be started to keep the nation's history alive through alterations of historical locations and their interpretations to remain relevant. It is through these changes that sites such as Tipton-Haynes have been able to survive for so long and continue to grow. Alterations to Tipton-Haynes' interpretation correspond to views of several public history works written on house museums and public history locations, but these changes are not always graciously enacted. Just as seen in the national movement of the Civil Rights Act and the inclusion of slave history on site, Tipton-Haynes fought this history and chose not to represent it until the donation of a cabin which gave them reason to interpret the slaves of the site and how they served the home. In contrast, alterations to historical interpretation can come from new artifacts and information researched for the site, such as the addition of information about the offset kitchen discovered in 2008 being added due to the facts that supported the findings. Unfortunately, this is not always the case across the nation.

Visitors and researchers that believed a set history for years struggle to change when new evidence comes to light. In the work *Sacred Ground: Americans and their Battlefields*, Edward Linenthal, discusses a few of America's battlefields and how they fare today as public interest changes and new evidence is discovered for the sites.⁵⁵⁸ Linenthal covers the Alamo, Lexington and Concord, Gettysburg, Pearl Harbor, and The Little Bighorn to show how public interest shaped these locations and how interpretation of these sites has changed over time in contrast to their original histories.⁵⁵⁹ Though these are different sites across the nation, the same issue of connection to the public arises. Linenthal discusses each of the site's beginning with their

⁵⁵⁸ Edward Tabor Linenthal, *Sacred Grounds: Americans and Their Battlefields* (Chicago, Illinois: University of Illinois Press, 1993), 1-6.

⁵⁵⁹ *Ibid.*, 1.

separate issues but converges each chapter as he discusses the needed connections to the public and visitors. These connections keep the site relevant to the public and in terms of the Alamo, members of the public requested changes to the site's interpretation and even its use, such as returning the historic site to its original use as a mission.⁵⁶⁰ The Lexington and Concord Association are battling more of an internal issue of the historic markers around both towns.⁵⁶¹ These markers help commemorate the strife that the Minute Men went through to protect their homes but is also believed to be a burden on the presentation of the history of the town, hindering visitor interest in the actual buildings and museum due to personal interpretation of the markers.⁵⁶² The Alamo and its public struggles center around the use of the site and its interpretation while being surrounded by the encroaching city of San Antonio. As presented in *Anarchist Guide*, the struggles to connect to the public is imperative to keep historic locations open. This is seen through the issues of the Alamo, where people believe that the site has become a tourist trap and its history should be altered to interpret the building as it was originally built.⁵⁶³

Amateur historian Gary L. Foreman believes that the Alamo has been turned into a tourist attraction and should be reconstituted to the solemn place it represented for the men who died there.⁵⁶⁴ He also would interpret the site to a fuller understanding of the sacrifice and importance of the grounds, what it meant to the men who gave their lives and what their actions caused.

Foreman continued to explain how interpretation does not end with the tours and museums but

⁵⁶⁰ Ibid., 57.

⁵⁶¹ Ibid., 11-13

⁵⁶² Ibid.

⁵⁶³ Ibid., 68.

⁵⁶⁴ Ibid., 56-57.

continues to the gift shop and the items sold to the public.⁵⁶⁵ These items can cause misconceptions to the public giving credence to the argument that history should be presented in its truest form known, including giftshop items. Though Foreman is an amateur historian, he is still a member of the public with his opinion of the interpretation. These have to be considered in judging how the growing public interest can change the roles of historic sites. Another belief of the Alamo surfaces through the beliefs of Rev. Balthasar Janacek. He believes that the mission should be returned to the original use as a place of worship before the battle.⁵⁶⁶ These beliefs represent how people of the public may not agree with the interpretations of locations but also represents how interpretation can change to match some criteria of public interest. In both forms, the Alamo is seen as a Mission while the grounds are memorialized through monuments listing the men that served and sacrificed.

Although sites like Mount Vernon and Monticello are nationally significant, historic sites, throughout the nation face changes to their histories and some choose not to interpret their histories completely accurate. Many times, this is done to soften the offensive portion of history that the public and staff do not want to accept. Tipton-Haynes staff and Association members have strived to alter its history to match the most current information available and alter its interpretation to match public interest. This is done to keep the site in operation, but not to the extent to contradict the overall goals that have been set for the site. Public interpretation does not always align with that of the site, which can be due to differences in backgrounds or something seen or heard during their visit such as items seen within a giftshop or artifacts within the

⁵⁶⁵ Ibid., 57.

⁵⁶⁶ Ibid., 57-58.

museum.⁵⁶⁷ Historic sites across the nation have gift shop items that do not pertain to the site's history can alter the individual's interpretation. This is due to selling items that are not period specific but interest the public. Gift shops have to keep items that raise interest, but they need to be aware that what is in them could affect the interpretation of the site by individuals own opinions.

A site faced with interpretative issues by hiding portions of their history is the Chief Vann House in northern Georgia. This historic house museum offers an intricate history of the lives of the Cherokee and the expansion of colonial religion and influence, but it also offers insight into the Vann family's luscious life style, wealth, and land.⁵⁶⁸ This is not the case when it comes to the writings of Tiya Miles in *The House on Diamond Hill, A Cherokee Plantation Story*. In her work, Miles discusses the life of James Vann and how he was an impolite man and drank heavily.⁵⁶⁹ He mistreated his wives by abusing them and circumvented Cherokee leadership to remain in control of his own estate.⁵⁷⁰ As owner of one of the largest plantations in the South during the early 1800s, he controlled and owned many slaves to tend the grounds. They were some of the most unfortunate, along with his wives, to be mistreated by Vann. Many of his life stories describe James Vann negatively and a terrible person to most around him, but this is not what is presented at the Vann home. Miles explains how many of the site's events interpret the Vann family and all their accomplishments, without speaking of the downfalls of

⁵⁶⁷ Franklin D. Vagnone and Deborah E. Ryan, *Anarchist's Guide to Historic House Museums* (Walnut Creek, California: Left Coast Press, 2016), 129-138.

⁵⁶⁸ "Chief Vann House State Historic Site," Georgia Department of Natural Resources, State Parks and State Sites, accessed November 15, 2019, <https://gastateparks.org/ChiefVannHouse>.

⁵⁶⁹ Tiya Miles, *The House on Diamond Hill: A Cherokee Plantation Story* (Chapel Hill, NC: The University of North Carolina Press, 2010), 3-7.

⁵⁷⁰ *Ibid.*, 109.

the family.⁵⁷¹ Miles felt that the events and the tours were not representing the site to its more accurate interpretation and began researching into the site herself.

Miles concluded her work by discussing the inclusion of a slave tour and exhibit at the Vann home and the struggles that the site had to face to obtain the exhibit.⁵⁷² Even with the struggles of opening the new exhibit it became a new draw for the public to enjoy and be educated on the more factual histories of the Van family. Through the inclusion of new histories and the expansion of the fact, the public can connect more to the history and to the importance of the site to the region. It was also necessary to include the history of slavery and women into the site's interpretation to help explain how James Vann lived his life and to educate the public on a more factual basis of the family and not solely on the achievements that brought Vann and his family fortune.

The Vann House did not face a tremendous amount of backlash for not presenting the fullest history of the family, but the staff worked diligently to increase the amount of history interpreted. Miles' work clarifies how historic sites chose to interpret the best of their owners lives and chose to not interpret any wrongdoing or unfortunate history. Her work is also excellent in representing how the public opinion can alter with the sites history as long as it is to its truest point. Historic sites across the nation should strive to explain all of their history, whether it is bad or good, to represent the factual parts of their past. This growth can help influence a site's interpretation and help expand on new subjects to keep the public attendance and interest. Expansion for sites in this manner may not be the easiest, but will allow a better understanding and grasp of the site, if the public is informed and educated on the true history of the site and not only on the history that makes the owners look good. Tiya Miles and her book, whether she

⁵⁷¹ Ibid., xi-xv.

⁵⁷² Ibid. 191-193.

planned for this or not, can help educate historic house museums on how to expand their interpretations and to represent their history through new interpretations.

Throughout Miles' work she traverses the site's history to its fullest interpretation from the records of the site and interprets the history as it should be. Following this she discussed how the site represents the history to the public and how it raises James Vann to a celebrity status instead of the villain as the actual history shows. Miles was not out to discredit the historic site but wished to help alter the interpretation of the site to its more evidence-based form, giving insight into how James Vann treated not only his family but his slaves and the people around him. Her work has opened the door to other sites altering their interpretations in a manner beneficial to the sites and not detrimentally. In essence, Miles became an external alteration to the Chief Vann Home and helped alter its interpretation for the better. This illustrates how even one person's opinion can change a sites interpretation forever and allow for a fuller understanding of historic sites. Tipton-Haynes has worked within these same confines as the site has recently added the slave and women's tours. These tours still tend to represent the Tipton and Haynes families in a celebrity way but does give credence to how these men and women were treated by their husbands and masters.

Many national and historical movements can be seen influencing Tipton-Haynes in the same manner, especially the connection to the public, slave history, and women's history. Through these influences it can be seen that many sites across the nation are struggling but continually try to advance their interpretations into one or all of these public desires. Tipton-Haynes being no different than many of the struggling sites has faced hardships that have negatively influenced or limited the site's interpretation but have also had numerous positive

influence that altered the interpretation by expanding the Association's understanding of the site's owners to create a more equal interpretation of all the site's inhabitants.

CHAPTER 5. CONCLUSION

Tipton-Haynes has had a complicated history representing and interpreting the Tipton, Haynes, and Simerly families at the site from its conception in 1965 but has strived to accurately interpret the families to their fullest extent over time. This can be seen through the histories of the families stored in the archives at Tipton-Haynes. To recapture the site's history and how the interpretation has changed the history of Tipton-Haynes becomes imperative to know to its fullest point. Colonel John Tipton first moved to North Carolina in 1784 and built his log structured home in its current location that same year. It was 25' X 30' and housed his sons young enough to still be living at home. During his move south, an uprising of a group known as the Franklinites began pushing for the formation of the State of Franklin comprised of all western lands of North Carolina. This attempt to create the fourteenth state failed due partly to the lack of support from Colonel John Tipton. A battle ensued on the property of Tipton-Haynes over the theft of slaves from proclaimed governor John Sevier's home and stored in the basement kitchen at the Tipton farm, but as Sevier lost the battle for his belongings, he lost the State of Franklin with it. This did not end the story of Colonel Tipton as he became a prominent member of the Territory South of the River Ohio and a member of the House of Representatives for the new state of Tennessee in 1796. After retirement from public life he began to dedicate most of his time into his racehorses and town life in Jonesborough. After years of serving in the Virginia, North Carolina, and Tennessee legislatures Colonel Tipton passed away in 1813, bequeathing the home to his seventh son of ten, John Tipton Jr.

John Tipton Jr., like his father, was heavily involved in politics serving numerous times as a state house of representative member and once as state senator. He moved into the Tipton-Haynes home around 1817 and began altering the home to a colonial style farmhouse, which

added a sitting room, new bedroom, windows, and two feet to the second-floor ceiling. John Tipton Jr. had nine children, three of which inherited the home in 1831 after he passed away in Nashville. The home then was sold by the heirs in 1837 to David and Rhoda Haynes, neither of which lived in the home but bought the property as a wedding gift for their oldest son Landon Carter Haynes and his new bride Eleanor Powell Haynes. They married around 1839 and moved into the home that same year.

After moving into the home, the two quickly began altering the home into its current Greek revival style by adding the ell of the home and a portico over the front porch. Landon Carter Haynes held many jobs including a lawyer and the Confederate Senator for the State of Tennessee. He represented his constituencies throughout his lifetime though as a state senator and house member as well. After serving in the Confederate government most of Haynes' possessions were taken from him including his home that was sold multiple times over the coming years. Haynes continued his life in Memphis Tennessee where he reopened his law practice eventually passing of a stroke in 1875.

The home, after exchanging a few different owners, was rented and eventually purchased by Sarah Simerly the niece of Landon Carter Haynes. She, her husband, and two sons, lived in the home until each of their passing, last of which in 1962. The two sons Samuel and Lawson were confronted by the Tennessee Historical Commission in regard to purchasing the home in hopes of saving it and turning it into a historic house museum. They eventually agreed on terms to sell the property to the state and retained life rights to the house. With both their passing in 1962 the home officially became under the ownership of the state. After the formation of the Tipton-Haynes Historical Association in 1965 much of the restoration of the site began and interpretation began to be formulated.

The Association began interpreting the Tipton family, choosing to leave out information on the Haynes family and their involvement of the site by stating that most of the buildings around the site were constructed by the Tipton family. In the beginning this was believed to be true but through detailed research in 2008 it was discovered to be false. The Association continued to interpret the site to its fullest potential of the Tipton family through tours, school fieldtrips, audio cassettes, and events, but under the directorship of Penny McLaughlin the inclusion in and alteration of the interpretation of the site began to take place. These alterations were not taken lightly as the site faced major changes to its history over the years of McLaughlin's leadership, to overcome years of representing only half truths. She fought for the inclusion of histories never told onsite and fought to alter the interpretation to its fullest and most truthful point based on research. She succeeded in this endeavor and therefore the much-needed interpretation of the Haynes family was added.

Through the history of Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site to the modern-day interpretation of the site and the grounds, Tipton-Haynes strives to remain true to its interpretation. This desire to educate the public of the truth around Colonel John Tipton, John Tipton Jr., Landon Carter Haynes, and the Simerly family continually push the staff of Tipton-Haynes to research further and dig deeper into the past to grasp a fuller and diverse history of these people and their families. It is necessary to understand how the site has evolved from the beginnings of the Association to the modern-day staff who run the site. Changes in staffing and board members alter the interpretation as each person understands the history in their own way and adds their own influence on the interpretations. Without these influences' history becomes stagnant and stale to the public who desires change and connection to return to a historic house museum. Without this connection and enjoyment what is to bring a visitor back and keep the site

open. External influences, such as the public, are extremely influential aspects of historic sites. Without public visitation, the sites will eventually struggle and close.

Other influences, such as national representations of people in the Civil Rights Movement alter the path of history and the way it is presented. Many sites across the nation quickly accepted the change, but others such as Tipton-Haynes, chose to ignore the public influence and national movement for another twenty plus years. This hindered the growth and interpretation as a building believed to be a slave cabin was removed and the first ever director of the site resigned from her position. External influences may not be significant to all sites, but throughout the years of Tipton-Haynes many can be seen, adjusting the site's interpretation and expanding the history of the site. Without alterations than a site can never expand to its full potential. Though influential growth is welcomed into many historic museums, some growth can be detrimental which unfortunately can be seen across the nation and Tipton-Haynes. Under the directorship of John Parrish, the site faced major changes to revert back to its origins, when the site only interpreted the Tipton family. This had hoped to have been outgrown and the interpretation of the site was well established in representing all members of the household, but through personal influences and alterations the site began to backtrack to a point that it did not need to return. After Parrish left, the site quickly altered back to growth and expansion of historical interest.

Sites, such as Tipton-Haynes, face many challenges from internal and external influences, whether they are good or bad, that help to expand the understanding of historic events. In the recovery period after Parrish left, the staff performed new research to renew the interpretation. The site is currently working on land deeds, marriage records, and genealogical lines, to help explain in more detail the transfer of the home and site across each family. Nothing has come

from the information so far but more questions, which allow for more research and expansion of understanding. Through this further research, the site hopes to answer the questions around the speculations of John Tipton Jr. and Abraham Tipton owning the home as stated in the first few chapters. Over time and many hours of dedicated work, the site hopes to expand its history even further and alter the interpretation as necessary to continue its goal of educating the public on a full and factual interpretation of the Tipton-Haynes home. It is even possible that once this research comes to its conclusion and is incorporated into the site's interpretation that the evidence will become obsolete in telling the life stories of the Tipton, Haynes, and Simerly families.

New additions, such as the Walk in our Boots event and the Upper East Tennessee Celtic Society, help to expand the site's history from the Tipton and Haynes families into the servicemen and women of this nation, along with the ever expanding history of the Scots-Irish people that helped settle this western most land during the times of the Tipton family. Alterations and changes such as these have been explained by several historians and authors as a growing necessity to the public that becomes disinterested in one particular part of history and opens the interpretation to new aspects by including new histories and educational material. Tipton-Haynes will continue to expand and alter its path to remain relevant with the public as long as it remains within the confines of its goals to educate the public on the site's true history and owners

The interpretation of the Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site is based off many pieces of materials, mostly held within the Mary Hardin McCown Archives on site. Through these archives' history can continually be stored and researched by anyone who wishes to understand a more in-depth lifestyle of the families that lived on site and to help understand how these lives helped influence the people of this region, state, and nation. Through the work done by the site

staff and Association members, the growing interest in the site and connectivity to its history can be seen through the expansion of the public knowledge and visitation to the site. Tipton-Haynes has strived to incorporate many of the external influences that various authors and historians have discussed in their books to help keep sites, such as this one, open and relevant to the public. Tipton-Haynes takes every alteration seriously and weighs it against pros and cons to determine if it will alter the path of the site in a negative or positive way and eventually making a decision. Through this process the site has implemented new tours, research, and events to help the people see the site not just as a place to learn of the Tipton, Haynes and Simerly families but as a site that can help one grasp and connect to the past through the history of the site, region, state, and nation through many different aspects and eras. Tipton-Haynes is using the internal and external influences that affect it to update the interpretation, hold the site to the most accurate history known, and keep the site viable to and inviting to the public.

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