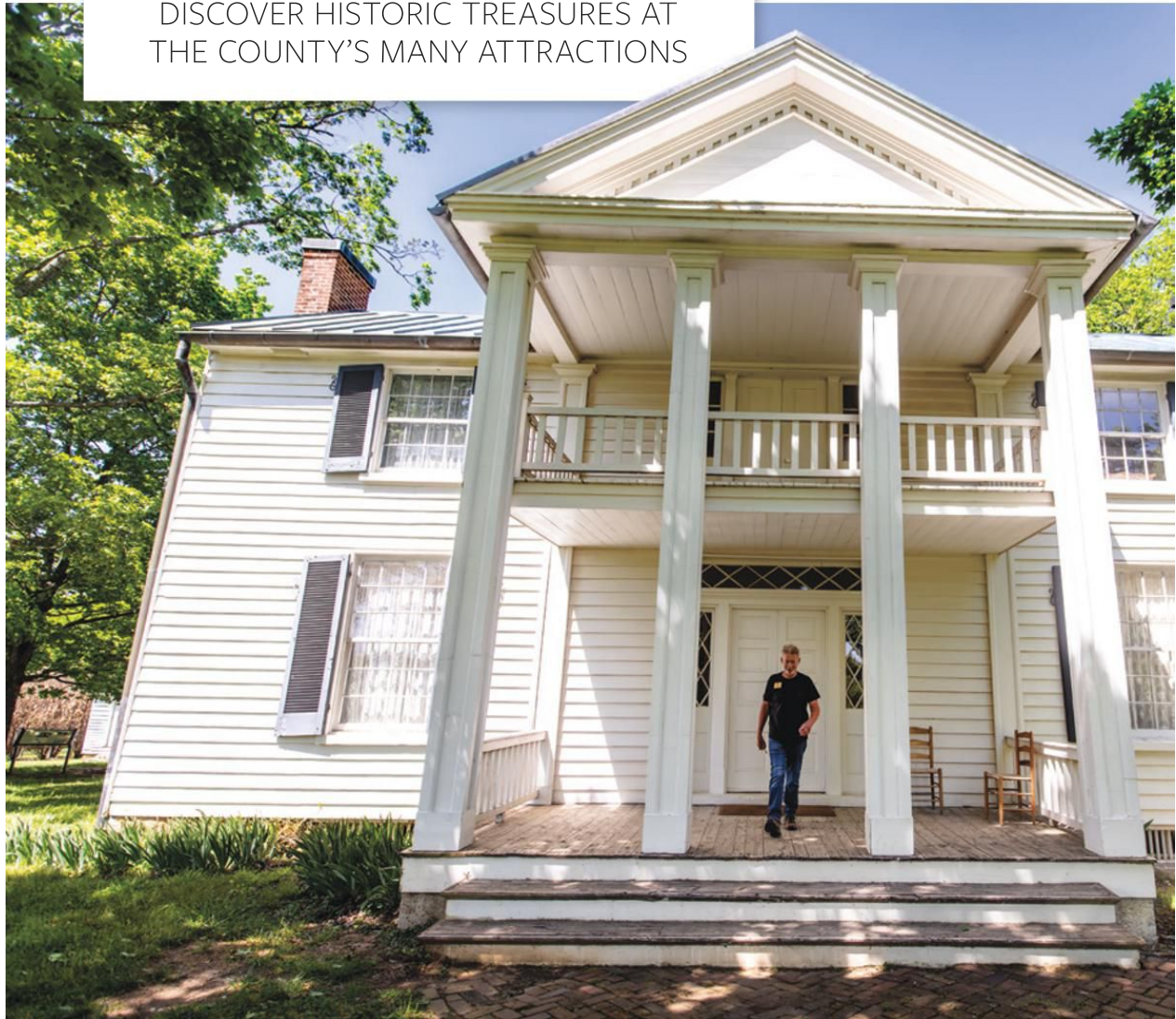


The Whole STORY

DISCOVER HISTORIC TREASURES AT THE COUNTY'S MANY ATTRACTIONS



Rutherford County is rich in history. A major Civil War battle was fought here. Frontiersman David “Davy” Crockett served as a legislator here some 40 years earlier, when the state capital was in Murfreesboro.

Native Americans hunted here long before the county formed in 1803.

But, historical accounts sometimes gloss over uncomfortable past realities. Thousands of relocated Native Americans passed through

Rutherford County on the Trail of Tears, and Slavery was a way of life on plantations throughout the county.

Even after emancipation, African American citizens endured numerous challenges – from land confiscation to



PHOTOS, FROM LEFT, JEFF ADKINS (1-3);
615 MEDIA/KRISTEN GOODMAN (4-5)

Jim Crow laws.

Local museums and heritage sites are now striving to recognize long-forgotten individuals from Rutherford County history and to tell stories that reflect the diversity of the region.



Learn about the history of Rutherford County by visiting the Sam Davis Home and Plantation in Smyrna (left) and Oaklands Mansion in Murfreesboro (above).

Homes With History

Commitment to inclusive history is evident at plantation homes where slavery once flourished.

The Sam Davis Home and Plantation in Smyrna, originally built around 1810, is named for a young man who grew up there and, at age 21, was hanged as a Confederate spy.

Along with Davis' story, museum exhibits document the individuals enslaved on the property and what happened to them after being freed. With a heavy emphasis on education, the museum strives to use

stories of the past to inform people of the present.

Oaklands Mansion, built in stages for the James Maney family beginning around 1815, is one of Murfreesboro's oldest, grandest homes, and its grounds now form a park and arboretum.

In partnership with the African American Heritage Society of Rutherford County, the museum works to collect, interpret and preserve the untold stories of the plantation's enslaved laborers.

Oaklands also supports efforts to locate unmarked African American graves in




History Galore
 Take a Civil War Heritage
 Tour to learn more
 about local battles.
 Find details at **visit**
rutherfordtn.com/
experiences/civil-
war-heritage-tour.



Above: Graves at Stones River National Cemetery; Left: A tour of Stones River National Battlefield

Section M of the adjacent Evergreen Cemetery, with a memorial that officially designates the burial ground.

Civil War Sites on View

Murfreesboro played a pivotal role during the Civil War in the Battle of Stones River – among the war’s deadliest. Thousands of fallen Confederate and Union soldiers, many of

them unidentified, were later reinterred in a section of Evergreen Cemetery called Confederate Circle, just a stone’s throw from Section M.

Visitors to Stones River National Battlefield may also learn of an African American community that formed there during Reconstruction.

Known as the Cemetery, the community initially included veterans of the United States

Colored Troops who maintained the nearby Stones River National Cemetery.

The government took over much of the land when it created the national battlefield. However, several original community structures, such as an old Cemetery School building from the 1940s, survive outside park boundaries.

A Strong Educational Heritage

A couple of public Rutherford County attractions pay tribute to other local schools of the past.

Bradley Academy, the county’s first school, opened in Murfreesboro around 1809. For decades the school admitted only white males – future President James Polk was one.

Abandoned during the Civil

PHOTOS: NATHAN LAMBRECHT

War, the academy reorganized as a coed school for African Americans in 1884 and served that community for 71 years. Bradley Academy Museum and Cultural Center, housed in the school's 1917 building, honors the institution's long history.

Smyrna commemorates part of its own educational heritage at Hilltop-Rosenwald Park. From 1927 to 1960, this was the site of the Smyrna Rosenwald School – one of roughly 5,000 African American schools established in the early 1900s through the efforts of Booker T. Washington and Julius Rosenwald, co-owner of Sears, Roebuck and Co.

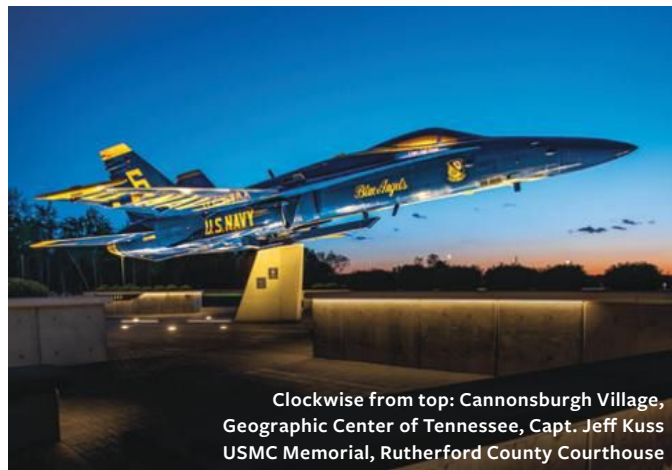
The current building, a replica of Smyrna Rosenwald School, opened in 2005 as a community center with a small exhibit inside about its history and informational markers outside.

Preserving the Past

Local sites offer visitors a broad scope of local history, from the Trail of Tears to the Civil Rights era and beyond.

Themed exhibits at the Heritage Center of Murfreesboro and Rutherford County explore the Civil War, musicians of Murfreesboro and more. Similarly, the Rutherford County Historic Courthouse Museum reveals the past through exhibits and hundreds of artifacts, all housed inside the 1859 courthouse.

Other local history attractions include the Smyrna Train Depot and the Capt. Jeff Kuss USMC Memorial – the city's tribute to a fallen Blue Angels pilot. In Murfreesboro, don't miss Cannonsburgh Village, the Geographic Center of Tennessee monument, and the 9/11 Memorial outside the Rutherford County Sheriff's Office – featuring a beam from the World Trade Center.



Clockwise from top: Cannonsburgh Village, Geographic Center of Tennessee, Capt. Jeff Kuss USMC Memorial, Rutherford County Courthouse

PHOTOS; CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: JEFF ADKINS (1-3); NATHAN LAMBRECHT