

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

**Living Heritage Museum to reveal unique Opportunity Quilt at MooFest**

ATHENS, Tenn. (June 4, 2010)— The McMinn County Living Heritage Museum will unveil the “Stitches in Time” 2010 Opportunity Quilt at its East Madison Avenue booth at MooFest. The Opportunity Quilt will also be showcased in the Museum’s annual juried quilt competition, “Once Upon a Time,” which will be held August 27 through October 29.

Handcrafted from Civil War-era reproduction fabrics, the “Stitches in Time” quilt is an original design by local quilter Marlys Bernard. While Northern-made Civil War-era quilts incorporated brightly colored fabrics available from European-manufactured dyes, quilts made in the South during the same period utilized hand-woven muslins colored with the muted hues of plant dyes.

“This quilt is based on the Southern tradition of the muddier look of natural dyes and reflects the brown tones of the South,” explained Bernard. “Traditional blocks of the day, such as the pinwheel, basic nine-patch, and others have been blended into an eye appealing Southern tradition of comfort and design.”

Because of the great expense and labor necessary to produce a quilt in the South, Confederate soldiers often raided Union camps and made off with their higher quality quilts. However, less extreme methods for obtaining a chance at owning the “Stitches in Time” quilt are available to MooFest attendees: Opportunity tickets are \$3 each, or \$5 for two.

“We look forward to showcasing this gorgeous work of art at MooFest,” said Diane Hutsell, Living Heritage Museum Executive Director. “And we invite other quilters to submit entries to the ‘Once Upon a Time’ competition.”

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Founded in 1982, the McMinn County Living Heritage Museum is a private, nonprofit organization housing more than 7,000 artifacts in 30 permanent exhibits that represent the culture and history of Southeast Tennessee from the 1700s to 1940s. The Museum also offers several changing exhibits as well as numerous special events and programs throughout the year and is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information or to make a donation, visit [www.livingheritagemuseum.com](http://www.livingheritagemuseum.com).

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