

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Museum welcomes artifact donations

ATHENS, Tenn. (June 16, 2010)—Family heirlooms. Photographs from important moments in history. Cannon balls and other military artifacts. Historical items such as these—and many others—are the treasured possessions of many area residents. And what better way to preserve and share them with the community than through a tax-deductible donation to the McMinn County Living Heritage Museum?

Over the years, the McMinn County Living Heritage Museum has acquired the majority of its over 7,000 artifact collection through public donations. If you own an object that is part of McMinn County history and you would be interested in sharing it—not only at the present time, but for generations to come—the McMinn County Living Heritage Museum would like to hear from you.

In order to make a donation, first call 423-745-0329 to schedule an appointment with Lisa Chastain, Curator of Collections and Exhibits. You will be asked to provide the age and origin of the object being considered for donation, as well as any information about the history of the object.

This information is presented to the Museum Staging Committee, which considers objects' history, condition, and appropriateness to the Museum's mission.

Donors receive a letter of acknowledgment, as donations are tax deductible according to current IRS regulations. The Museum staff is forbidden by federal law from providing any information on the value of any object donated or potentially donated to the Museum, so potential donors may want to meet with a qualified appraiser prior to donation.

(more)

The Living Heritage Museum's goal is to change exhibits frequently, providing the opportunity for different artifacts to rotate in and out of displays. Our artifacts are enormously important in helping to bring history to life, and the McMinn County Living Heritage Museum welcomes your donation.

"The Museum is dedicated to preserving and presenting the history of our region," said Chastain, "and displaying artifacts donated by community members is an important way to continue reaching that goal."

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.

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