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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SMITHSONIAN COMING TO COWAN March 10 through April 21, 2012

Cowan Railroad Museum will explore the professions and the people that sustain American society when it hosts “The Way We Worked,” a Smithsonian Institution traveling exhibition on display March 10 through April 21, 2012 at the Cowan Center for the Arts Theater.

How have jobs changed over the past 150 years? What careers were available to people in 1880? What companies have come and gone? We invite you to stroll through Franklin County history with some bullets gathered by Sally Hubbard from issues of the *Franklin County Historical Review* (FCHR).

The **Mountain Goat** branch line ascending the mountain to Tracy City and crossed above the mainline rail as the mainline entered the tunnel bound for Sherwood. It was built in the 1850s by the Sewanee Mining Company to haul coal but also functioned as a passenger train to transport students and summer visitors to the Mountain. Passengers might have to wait 2 – 5 hours at the depot, might have to pick blackberries when the train jumped the track, and generally rode with their luggage and umbrellas atop the coal cars. (FCHR Vol. 11, No. 2, 1980)

In later years trains were more refined. Though still very slow, there were 8 regularly scheduled passenger trains each way connecting Cowan and Tracy City every day except Sunday.

Falls Mill on Factory Creek was built in 1873 to manufacture woolen fabric and coarse cotton, on the site of an earlier mill that had burned. The bricks were made locally, and the beams fastened with wooden pegs. Women comprised the labor force, and the mill operated 24 hours a day. It was vacated between 1896 and 1903 and opened again to manufacture cotton until 1942. A retired Army officer, W.W. Crum, bought the mill in 1970 and installed a metal water wheel that creates 100 horsepower to turn the 42-inch

grinding stones. Working 8 hours per day, the mill produces 8,000 pounds of meal or 12 barrels of flour. The historic water-driven mill attracts tourists as well as produces flour and meal for sale. (FCHR, Vol. 20, No. 2, 1989)

In Romanesque Revival Scottish style, Arthur Handly Marks built **Hundred Oaks** estate at Oak Street and Highway 64 in Winchester, beginning in 1889. The architect was Samuel Patton of Chattanooga. The grand 3-story red brick building featured dormers, a second story arcade or loggia, slate roof, stepped gables, carriage house, and a porte-cochere, all fit for the grandest of castles on the Rhine River. Included were a two-story chapel or ballroom and exterior dairy and laundry.

From 1901 to 1955 the complex was owned by Roman Catholic Paulist Fathers for their religious activities and missionary work with protestants. (FCHR, Vol. 22, No. 2, 1989) *The castle was partially destroyed by fire in 1990. The surviving remnants are well preserved and still listed in the National Register of Historic Places.*

“The Way We Worked” has been made possible to Cowan Railroad Museum by Humanities Tennessee.

“The Way We Worked,” an exhibition created by the National Archives, is part of Museum on Main Street, a collaboration between the Smithsonian Institution and State Humanities Councils nationwide. The United States Congress has provided support for Museum on Main Street.

For more information call Pat Underwood at 931-962-2356 or check the website at www.Smithsonian.CowanRailroadMuseum.org

Promoting integrated enlightenment in Cowan and surrounding Middle Tennessee.