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The Hermitage to welcome Dr. Mark Cheatham

Author and historian will present lecture and sign new book, "Andrew Jackson, Southerner"

April 24, 2013 – Andrew Jackson’s Home, The Hermitage will welcome author and historian Dr. Mark Cheatham on Saturday, November 16 at 1 p.m. Cheatham will be giving a lecture and discussing his new book “Andrew Jackson, Southerner.” The event is free and open to the public.

Dr. Cheatham is the author of “Old Hickory’s Nephew: The Political and Private Struggles of Andrew Jackson Donelson,” the editor of “Jacksonian and Antebellum Age: People and Perspectives,” and the co-editor of “Of Times and Race: Essays Inspired by John F. Marszalek.”

In this new biography of Andrew Jackson, Cheatham gives a compelling new presentation of the seventh President, which conflicts many long-standing beliefs about Jackson.

According to a description from publisher LSU Press, “Many Americans view Andrew Jackson as a frontiersman who fought duels, killed Indians, and stole another man’s wife. Historians have traditionally presented Jackson as a man who struggled to overcome obstacles and helped create a more democratic United States. In ‘Andrew Jackson, Southerner,’ Cheatham asserts, to the contrary, that our nation’s seventh President lived as an elite southern gentleman.”

“Andrew Jackson is fascinating, both as a leader and an individual,” says Howard Kittell, CEO of The Hermitage. “Jackson was and continues to be polarizing in the way he is perceived. Cheatham offers a wonderful perspective on Jackson’s identity in this new book.”

Cheatham, a native of Cleveland, Tennessee, has served as an associate professor of history at Cumberland University since 2008. But it was during his time as a student at Cumberland University that he became interested in Andrew Jackson. During college, Dr. Cheatham worked at The Hermitage as a tour guide. According to Cheatham, “It was during that time I became fascinated with a guy who was so complex... and someone who captured the imagination of the American people.”

After graduating from Cumberland University with a B.A. in History, Dr. Cheatham obtained his M.A. in history from Middle Tennessee State University and his Ph.D. in history from Mississippi State University. He served as an assistant professor of history at Southern New Hampshire University from 2004 to 2008 before returning to his undergraduate alma mater. Dr. Cheatham is active in the Lebanon and Nashville historical communities. He is on the Historic Lebanon board of directors and frequently gives talks to historical groups in Middle Tennessee.

About The Hermitage

The Hermitage, Home of President Andrew Jackson, is one of the largest and most visited presidential homes in the United States. In 1856, the State of Tennessee purchased the property from the Jackson family, entrusting it to the Ladies' Hermitage Association in 1889 to operate as one of America's first historic site museums. Today, The Hermitage is a 1,120-acre National Historic Landmark with more than 30 historic buildings, including restored slave cabins. Thanks to efforts of this nonprofit organization, the mansion is the most accurately preserved early presidential home in the country. The Hermitage is a national model for authenticity, conservation, and historic preservation. In recent years, new interpretive initiatives and educational programs such as archaeology and the history of slavery have enhanced the experience of some 180,000 annual visitors, including 30,000 school children, from all 50 states and many foreign countries; in fact, we interpret the Hermitage mansion in five foreign languages. The property also receives 30,000 annual visits from the local community, including more than 1,000 children who play Little League baseball at The Hermitage's Rotary Park. The Hermitage is a "Partner Place" with the National Trust for Historic Preservation; and a site along the National Park Service's Trail of Tears National Historic Trail. For more information, visit www.thehermitage.com.

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