



The Center for Historic Preservation (CHP), the first Center of Excellence at Middle Tennessee State University, reached its 30th year of service in 2014–2015. We are proud of what we do—from community-centered projects deep along the backroads of the South to peer-reviewed scholarship on topics that matter. We are most proud of the generation-plus of students, undergraduate to doctorate, who have graced us with their energy, insights, and dedication to historic preservation and then gone on to make their own impact on their communities, institutions, and states. We are proud of the student success of more than 200 graduate research assistants, for they help to define the future not only for historic preservation in Tennessee and the South but increasingly for the fields of historic preservation and public history throughout the United States.

Commitment to students and mentoring their education and, later, professional careers are central to who we are and what we do on a daily basis. Just as important is how we engage with students and, for that matter, with communities, institutions, and governments. We practice “boots-on-the-ground” historic preservation. We go to property owners, communities, and elected officials and listen carefully to what they wish to achieve with their history. We then work together—what we call reciprocal partnerships—to craft a plan to move forward, helping our partners integrate their pasts, historic sites, and traditions into tools for stronger communities, enhanced economic opportunities, and more meaningful engagement with their fellow citizens on what is significant to them and, in turn, to the state and nation.

In the following pages, these words of engagement, partnership, and significance appear in whatever program we discuss, be it the National Park Service-supported Tennessee Civil War National



Visitors to the 2014 opening of the Tina Turner Museum at the Historic Flagg Grove School view panels created by CHP graduate students and staff.

Heritage Area and Cherokee Trail of Tears Study, the Library of Congress-supported Teaching with Primary Sources program, the national network of the American Democracy Project, or even our oldest service partnership, the Tennessee Century Farms program. At the CHP, engagement, partnership, and significance are not hollow terms—rather they are the guiding philosophy of our scholarship, our service, and our teaching. Without deep engagement with our fellow citizens and the ability to contribute our expertise and funding to their goals for history and historic preservation, we would be little more than an academic exercise. With the support of citizens and communities, however, we can work together to shape new stories, new opportunities, and new futures for our state and nation through historic preservation.



Graduate research assistant Ginna Foster Cannon presents at the National Council on Public History conference in Nashville in April 2015.



2014–2015 graduate research assistants and student assistants at Fall 2014 orientation, clockwise from back left: Aleia Brown, Michael Fletcher, Torren Gatson, Joseph Bryan, Jenna Stout, Abby Gautreau, Ginna Foster Cannon, Noël Harris, Ethan Morris, Matthew Whitten, Kim Cherry, Katelyn Dinkins, Marquita Reed, and Amanda Barry.

Captions for Cover Photos (clockwise from top left):

- The Hair Conrad Cabin in Bradley County, TN, is part of the Trail of Tears Historic Building Survey.
- CHP director Dr. Van West wrote the nomination for RCA Studio A in Nashville to be placed on the National Register of Historic Places.
- The American Democracy Project partnered with Tennessee Citizen Action to register MTSU students to vote.
- Education specialist Kira Duke and graduate research assistant Amanda Barry learned about the Annie Manie Literary and Industrial School from community members in Wilcox County, AL.

Carroll Van West (Ph.D., College of William and Mary, 1982) is the Center's director and a professor of History at MTSU. Appointed Tennessee State Historian by Gov. Bill Haslam in 2013, his publications include *Nashville Architecture* (2015), *A History of Tennessee Arts* (2004), *Tennessee Encyclopedia of History and Culture* (1998), and *Capitalism on the Frontier* (1993).

Antoinette G. van Zelm (Ph.D., College of William and Mary, 1998) is the Center's assistant director. She manages the collaborative partnerships of the Tennessee Civil War National Heritage Area, coordinates graduate research assistants, and edits the CHP's blog, *Southern Rambles*. Recent publications include an essay in *Tennessee Women: Their Lives and Times* (2015).

Stacey R. Graham (Ph.D., University of California–Los Angeles, 2005) is a research associate professor in the CHP and the Department of History and is also the program coordinator for Teaching with Primary Sources–MTSU. Research interests include Late Antiquity, international historic preservation, and cemeteries.

Mary A. Evins (Ph.D., University of Chicago, 1998) is a research associate professor in the CHP and the Department of History and directs the American Democracy Project at MTSU. Recent publications include "Moderation in All Things, Middle-of-the-Road Politics for Progress, People, and Public Service," in *People of the Upper Cumberland* (2015) and *Tennessee Women in the Progressive Era: Their Work in the Public Sphere in the New South* (2013).

Kira V. Duke (M.A., University of Tennessee, 2005) is the education specialist for Teaching with Primary Sources–MTSU. She facilitates teacher workshops across the state and co-manages the Teaching with Primary Sources–MTSU website. Research interests include school desegregation and civil rights history.

Leigh Ann Gardner (M.A., MTSU, 2012) is the interpretive specialist for the Tennessee Civil War National Heritage Area and oversees the Heritage Center of Murfreesboro and Rutherford County. Research interests include African American fraternal and benevolent lodges and topics related to Reconstruction.

Amy M. Kostine (M.A., MTSU, 2012) is the Trail of Tears project coordinator/historian at the CHP. She oversees all partnership projects with the National Trails Intermountain Region of the National Park Service and other organizations that are aimed at the preservation and interpretation of the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail. Research interests include American Indian history and the history of photography.

Susan W. Knowles (Ph.D., MTSU, 2011) is digital humanities research fellow at the CHP. She has co-directed two online thematic research collections, *Shades of Gray & Blue: Reflections of Life in Civil War Tennessee* (2011) and *Trials and Triumphs: Tennesseans Search for Citizenship, Community, and Opportunity* (2014). Her research in East Tennessee has resulted in National Register listings for the historic marble industry.

Laura S. Holder (M.A., MTSU, 2005) is the federal liaison for the Tennessee Civil War National Heritage Area, coordinating collaborative efforts with the National Park Service. She serves on the governor-appointed Tennessee Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission. Research interests include the Civil War and Reconstruction-era African American communities.

In addition, executive aide **Cindy Duke** (Certificate in Business Administration, MTSU, 1979) and secretary **Debbie Sager** (BS, MTSU, 1974) run office operations, and **Rachael Harrell Finch** (MA, MTSU, 2013) serves as the Heritage Area's liaison with the Franklin Masonic Temple restoration project.



CHP staff, clockwise from back left: Cynthia Duke, Amy Kostine, Leigh Ann Gardner, Kira Duke, Mary Evins, Carroll Van West, Antoinette van Zelm, Stacey Graham, Rachael Finch, Susan Knowles, and Debbie Sager. Not pictured: Laura Holder.



Tennessee Civil War National Heritage Area

The Tennessee Civil War National Heritage Area (TCWNHA) tells the whole story of America's greatest challenge—powerful stories of warfare, home front, occupation, and emancipation, as well as the enduring legacies of Reconstruction. Matching federal appropriations with state and local funding, the TCWNHA emphasizes

- community-centered partnerships,
- experience-based educational opportunities for Ph.D., M.A., and undergraduate students, and
- innovative peer-reviewed scholarship.

We are often asked how the Heritage Area engages so successfully with Tennessee's diverse communities and organizations. The answer is simple. We create balanced partnerships, empowering groups with the plans, tools, and funding to serve as good stewards of their history.

A great example during the past year is Shelby County's Orange Mound project. Established in 1890, Orange Mound is Tennessee's oldest African American planned neighborhood. Staff and students worked with residents to create a 15-stop driving tour highlighting the community's historic institutions.

With Orange Mound and all of our community-based partnerships, students work closely with staff and community members to plan, research, and implement each project. Our hands-on commitment to training and professional development prepares students to make the transition to serve as history professionals, fully prepared to become future leaders and educators.



Dedication of the Fort Germantown Civil War Trails marker in Shelby County.

As the 150th anniversary of the end of the war approached, the TCWNHA supported research projects related to emancipation and Reconstruction, including

- *Trials and Triumphs: Tennesseans' Search for Citizenship, Community, and Opportunity, 1865–1946* (see p. 5), and
- *Landscape of Liberation: The African American Geography of Civil War Tennessee* (see p. 5).

Director Van West served another year as the governor-appointed co-chair of the Tennessee Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission, leading the state's efforts to commemorate, promote, and preserve Tennessee's Civil War legacy. In 2014–2015, the TCWNHA supported the following Commission projects that also commemorated the war's end and Reconstruction:

- Free signature events in Franklin and Knoxville with living-history school programs, scholarly roundtable discussions, educator workshops, and musical performances;
- Additional sites added to the Tennessee Civil War Trails program (currently 300 markers in 77 counties), with the Tennessee Departments of Tourist Development and Transportation;
- Civil War and Reconstruction documentaries, with Nashville Public Television;
- Additional volumes of *Tennessee in the Civil War*, with the Tennessee Historical Society; and
- Permanent Civil War exhibits at every Tennessee interstate visitor center and one federal highway visitor center, with the Tennessee Departments of Tourist Development and Transportation.

Finally, West and interpretive specialist Leigh Ann Gardner researched and wrote *Tennessee's Reconstruction Past: A Driving Tour*, which is being distributed across the state.



Irish archaeologist Damian Shiels, who presented the keynote address on Confederate Gen. Patrick Cleburne, meets with attendees at the Sesquicentennial Signature Event in Franklin in November 2014.

The Heritage Center of Murfreesboro and Rutherford County

The Heritage Center continued its mission of training the next generation of student leaders and providing a meeting space for heritage groups across the county. In 2014–2015, graduate and undergraduate students gave tours to the public, assisted at community events, and worked on new exhibit panels and publications, including an exhibit guide titled *The Hub of a Wheel: A Brief Guide to Murfreesboro's Past*. Our reciprocal partnership with Main Street Murfreesboro/Rutherford County gave our students experience with an active downtown revitalization organization.

Of the many events that engaged students and community members at the Heritage Center over the past year, several stand out. A public breakfast for Secretary of State Tre Hargett, organized by the American Democracy Project to kick off Constitution Day at MTSU, was held on September 17, 2014. In October 2014, the Heritage Center hosted weekly lectures on different aspects of Rutherford County history for the inaugural Heritage Month collaboration with Stones River National Battlefield, the Rutherford County Archives, Bradley Academy Museum, and other local organizations. The following month, we welcomed Irish archaeologist Damian Shiels, director of Rubicon Heritage, for a riveting presentation.

The Heritage Center's significance in the community is highlighted by the many heritage groups that meet regularly at the center. Our newest partner is the Rutherford County Archaeological Society, which began meeting monthly in January 2015 to raise awareness of the archaeology and cultural history of the county.



Graduate research assistants Joseph Bryan, Jenna Stout, and Torren Gatson hang exhibit panels about agriculture in the Heritage Center.



Graduate research assistants Amanda Barry, Denise Gallagher, and Aleia Brown help kick off Constitution Day at the Heritage Center in September 2014.



Digital Humanities Initiatives

The CHP's digital humanities initiatives are based on multiple partnerships and contributions from a variety of staff and students. Our goal is to provide online content that reflects the community-based mission of the CHP and engages both general and scholarly audiences.

- [*Southern Places*](#), one of the core digital collections at MTSU's Walker Library, includes images and property histories from the CHP's work in preserving churches, schools, Tennessee Century Farms, cemeteries, and other historic structures. Graduate research assistants Jenna Stout, Denise Gallagher, and Brad Miller have assisted digital humanities fellow Susan Knowles in developing thematic interpretation and data visualization to make the website more widely available.
- [*Trials and Triumphs: Tennesseans Search for Citizenship, Community, and Opportunity*](#) is a mobile-friendly digital collection funded by the Tennessee Board of Regents in 2014 and featuring images from twenty repositories. The collection includes materials that reflect the period between Reconstruction and the end of World War II. Education specialist Kira Duke oversaw the creation of lesson plans linked to Library of Congress online resources and written by graduate research assistant Brittany Walker.
- [*Landscape of Liberation: The African American Geography of Civil War Tennessee*](#) is an interactive map created by a partnership between MTSU's Geospatial Research Center and the Tennessee State Library and Archives, with digital research assistance from the CHP and Walker Library. Working with GIS software, Knowles and Walker Library digital librarian Ken Middleton assisted GIS specialist Zada Law, graduate research assistant Lydia Simpson, and Catherine Hawkins to map locations linked to primary sources.



TEACHING with PRIMARY SOURCES

Teaching with Primary Sources—MTSU

The CHP administers Teaching with Primary Sources—MTSU, a high-profile federal program of the Library of Congress that encourages teachers to incorporate original documents, photographs, musical scores, newspapers, and other first-person accounts into their teaching. TPS—MTSU staff and graduate students engage educators with a wide variety of primary sources in order to encourage them to do the same with their students. Over the past year, we have interacted with more than 600 educators in 50-plus events statewide. After receiving overwhelming feedback from K–5 teachers about their need for materials to meet the new Social Studies curriculum standards, TPS—MTSU staff and graduate students created activities, newsletters, and primary source sets to meet this need. Furthermore, the TPS—MTSU Educator-in-Residence position allowed us to communicate one-on-one with a selected educator, Suzanne Costner of Blount County, who developed elementary school lesson plans and resource guides that she field-tested within her district.

TPS—MTSU serves a diverse body of educators across the state by forming partnerships with cultural organizations, school districts, and more. Our ongoing partnership with the East Tennessee Historical Society allowed us to offer six content-rich workshops in 2014–2015. Another strong partnership, with the Tennessee Historical Society, resulted in six workshops to prepare educators for participation in Tennessee History Day. We also partnered with the National Civil Rights Museum for a workshop on citizenship, the Museum Center at Five Points for a TVA workshop, Stones



Participants in the 2015 Civil War Summer Institute explore the historic Reconstruction-era African American neighborhood of Wesley Heights in Greeneville, including the George Clem School.

River National Battlefield for a workshop examining the legacy of the battle, and the Tennessee State Library and Archives (along with the Tennessee Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission) for workshops on the Franklin–Nashville Campaign of 1864 and Reconstruction.

Through our website and professional development events, we provide high-quality, user-friendly materials that not only connect teachers to primary sources but also outline specifically how to use primary sources to move students towards higher-order thinking skills while fulfilling state curriculum standards. Outstanding examples of lesson plans created during the past year include Suzanne Costner’s “The Star-Spangled Banner” for second and fourth grades, and two lesson plans by graduate research assistant Ethan Morris, “Fights, Freedom, and Fraud: Voting Rights in the Reconstruction Era” and “Songs of the Labor Movement.”

Taking challenging topics and primary sources and making them accessible and useful to educators is at the heart of our approach. Visit our website at <http://library.mtsu.edu/tps> to see what we can offer, and please contact us with your suggestions.

*The mission of the **Library of Congress Teaching with Primary Sources** program is to build awareness of the Library’s educational initiative, provide content that promotes the effective educational use of the Library’s resources, and offer access to and promote sustained use of the Library’s educational resources. The Library achieves this mission through collaborations between the Library and the K–12 educational community across the United States. The program contributes to the quality of education by helping teachers use the Library’s digitized primary sources to engage students, develop their critical thinking skills, and construct knowledge. Learn more about the Library’s TPS program and other resources available to teachers at www.loc.gov/teachers.*



Wilson County teachers investigate context clues to place a series of historic maps in chronological order.



The American Democracy Project

The CHP expanded in 2014 to include the national American Democracy Project (ADP) of the American Association of State Colleges and Universities. The ADP

is an initiative that advocates for civic learning in all disciplines of higher education to prepare young people for engaged citizenship in our democracy, so that they can become informed members of their communities.

A program of the University Provost's Office at MTSU since 2003, ADP has completed its first full year with the CHP. ADP's efforts to advance civic learning, engagement, and responsibility in our democracy are fueled through partnerships and parallel the community-centered preservation work at the core of the mission of the CHP. Both the CHP and ADP are founded on the principle that democratic action and historic preservation are their very best when locally driven and broadly inclusive. The CHP provides ADP with exciting networks and support for important accomplishments.

Integrated across the themes of engagement, partnerships, and scholarship, ADP's civic work this year included hosting Constitution Day and voter registration; sharing work with community partners; teaching inclusion and civil society; building faculty communities of practice; and doing historic research about actions for social change. ADP at MTSU is recognized nationally for its initiatives.

- Constitution Day brought Tennessee Secretary of State Tre Hargett to campus. Simultaneous readings of the U.S. Constitution took place across campus, with the participation of university officials, students and faculty, school groups, and local organizations, many of whom also assisted in the registration of new voters.
- Many civic groups, such as the League of Women Voters, Tennessee Citizen Action, the American Association of University Women, and the Chamber of Commerce, are directly involved in ADP's effort to increase young-adult civic participation. Our students are actively engaged in these outreach activities and community events.

Tennessee Secretary of State Tre Hargett with MTSU students at Constitution Day in 2014.



- ADP coordinator Dr. Mary Evins involves her students and classes intentionally in the work of democracy, taking students to the polls to vote and providing them opportunities to sit down with community members to dialogue across difference.
- MTSU faculty are supported through ADP to develop civic-learning curricula in their classrooms, no matter the discipline. The National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) awarded ADP at MTSU a prestigious "Bridging Cultures at Community Colleges" grant to expand faculty learning communities across Tennessee in 2015–2016.
- Laying groundwork through the study of women citizen-activists of the Progressive Era, ADP and CHP are gearing up for the Tennessee and national commemorations of the 2020 centennial of the ratification of the Nineteenth Amendment giving women the right to vote.



Graduate research assistants Amanda Barry and Brad Miller join professors Amy Sayward and Ron Messier in a planning meeting for the NEH workshop.



Participants in the "Religious Pluralism in Tennessee: Bridging Cultures at Community Colleges" program funded by the NEH.

The Trail of Tears

The CHP continues to make interpretation and preservation of the Trail of Tears a top priority. Much has been accomplished over the last year due to successful partnerships with a number of federal, state, and local organizations, including the National Trails Intermountain Region of the National Park Service, Tennessee State Parks, the Trail of Tears Association, and the Native History Association. Both undergraduate and graduate students have been actively involved in a number of our projects with these partners and have gained practical experience in preparation for careers in the field.

The CHP has entered into its third year partnering with the National Trails Intermountain Region to conduct a comprehensive, nine-state survey to identify and document historic buildings associated with the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail. The final report will serve as a planning tool for future preservation and interpretation initiatives for the Trail. To date, the CHP has

- completed fieldwork for the survey in all nine states (Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Illinois, Kentucky, Missouri, North Carolina, Oklahoma, and Tennessee);
- updated a GIS database with new research; and
- begun drafting the final report, which is due at the end of September 2015.

Over the last year, the CHP has also partnered with the National Trails Intermountain Region to produce a “Restoration Guide for Historic Log Buildings on the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail” and complete a draft updating the current “Historic and Archaeological Resources of the Cherokee Trail of Tears” Multiple Property Documentation Form for the National Register of Historic Places. Work has also begun on a historic structure report for the Crider Corncrib in Caldwell County, Kentucky, a certified site on the Trail.

In addition, the CHP partnered with the National Trails Intermountain Region, David Crockett State Park, and the Tennessee Chapter of the Trail of Tears Association to develop interpretive



CHP research assistants Noël Harris and Tiffany Momon examine the Crider Corncrib in Kentucky with CHP director Dr. Carroll Van West, president of the Kentucky Chapter of the Trail of Tears Association Alice Murphee, and local resident Donnie Boone, in preparation for a historic structure report.

wayside exhibits for a 2.5-mile section of the Bell Route of the Trail of Tears in David Crockett State Park. On November 1, 2014, four new wayside exhibits were unveiled along the Trail of Tears Retracement Trail in the park. The waysides discuss the Bell detachment’s journey through Lawrenceburg and David Crockett’s opposition to the Indian Removal Act. In May 2015, CHP staff member Amy Kostine and David Crockett State Park received a Tennessee Historical Commission Certificate of Merit for the waysides.

Over the past year, the CHP has also

- begun preparing a historic structure report for the Thomas Tatham Cabin in Andrews, NC, in partnership with the North Carolina Chapter of the Trail of Tears Association and the Tatham family;
- drafted seven exhibit panels discussing Cherokee politics and removal for Red Clay State Historic Park; and
- drafted four exhibit panels on the Trail of Tears for the Heritage Center of Murfreesboro and Rutherford County.

Follow our progress on these and other Trail projects via the CHP’s blog, *Southern Rambles* (chpblog.org).



Trail of Tears wayside unveiling at David Crockett State Park, November 2014. From left to right: Artist Bernice Davidson, Tennessee Chapter of the Trail of Tears Association member Vicky Garland, CHP Trail of Tears project coordinator Amy Kostine, and David Crockett State Park manager John Bass.

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