

Common Bond

News from the MTSU Center for Historic Preservation

Scholars. Partners. Leaders.

Winter 2014



Our Graduate Research Assistants for Spring 2014!

Our graduate students are key to our ability to partner with communities around the region. They are also excellent scholars.

Aleia Brown's essay "African American Quilt Making--Communing with History" will be in the exhibition catalog for *& Still We Rise: Race, Culture & Visual Conversations*. The show opened in October 2013 at the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center in Cincinnati, OH, & will tour the country for the next 5



Tennessee State Supreme Court Justices with ADP MTSU's Director Dr. Mary Evins & students at this year's Constitution Day events

This semester, the CHP has expanded, adding the American Democracy Project at MTSU (ADP MTSU), a vibrant program that focuses on undergraduate education, citizenship & community outreach. Led by Dr. Mary Evins, ADP MTSU is part of a national initiative begun in 2003 by the American Association of State Colleges & Universities to increase students' civic engagement

years.

Ginna Foster Cannon presented “Mind the Gap: An Exploration of the Disconnect in Narratives Pertaining to Luxury Historic Hotels in America” at the Ohio Valley History Conference in Bowling Green, KY. She will present more of her research at the University of Alabama at Birmingham’s Graduate History Association Conference.

Cannon & Abigail Gautreau will be part of a roundtable discussion “Sustaining Historic Preservation through Community Engagement” at the National Council on Public History’s annual convention in Monterey, CA, this year.

Jenna Stout’s reflection on a travel scholarship she received to attend the 2013 Annual Meeting of the Southeastern Museums Conference was featured in their Winter 2014 newsletter. She will present “Sleeping Porches & Open-Air: The Architecture of Public Health at Denver’s Tubercular Sanitariums” at the Southwest Popular/American Cultural Association Conference in Albuquerque.

Recent graduate students are also having success. Cheri LaFlamme Szcodronski’s “From Contraband to Freedman: General Grant, Chaplain Eaton & Grand Junction, TN” is in the Summer 2013 *Tennessee Historical Quarterly*, & Katie Stringer’s “The Legacy of Dime Museums & the Freakshow: How the Past Impacts the Present” is in the Autumn 2013 edition of *History News*.

Congratulations to you all!

We have a new blog! In [Southern Rambles](#), staff & students reflect on current projects.

& awareness.

On campus this semester, ADP students are preparing a documentary about the public & civic engagement of MTSU’s students & faculty. We are also continuing the Campus & Community Civic Health study--which looks at campus engagement in voting, community attitudes & other civic enterprises--& we are working with community colleges around the state to assist in the development of their own civic health programs.

By working with neighboring Appalachian-area universities, ADP MTSU hopes to create a new National ADP Stewardship of Public Lands (SPL) program. Historically, SPL has focused on environmental conflicts in & around Yellowstone National Park. This new alliance wants to address issues faced by our regional Smoky Mountain National Park resources.



Jessica White, installing the exhibits at Parker's Crossroads Visitor Center



The General Longstreet Museum, where the CHP recently installed a new exhibit



Elementary school teachers discuss Common Core Standards

Teaching with Primary Sources-MTSU has been partnering with organizations across Tennessee to help prepare educators for the coming changes in teaching standards.

In November, we joined with the Tennessee State Library & Archives (TSLA) for a workshop on the Cold War. Dr. Amy Sayward was the guest speaker, & she gave a fascinating overview of Cold War history. Because this was in conjunction with TSLA, the teachers donned the white gloves & handled original artifacts in addition to using the Library of Congress's digital resources.

Upcoming partnerships include a 2-day workshop focused on Founding Documents hosted by the East Tennessee Historical Society in Knoxville at the end of February.

Finally, if you go to the National Council for Historical Education's annual meeting in Albuquerque, check out Educational Specialist Kira Duke's

The Center for Historic Preservation's support for the Tennessee Civil War National Heritage Area has produced 2 new exhibitions this winter. In the 2nd week of January, Jessica White, exhibition curator & designer, along with Dr. Carroll Van West, exhibition historian, placed new permanent installations at the Parker's Crossroads Visitor Center in Henderson County & the Longstreet Headquarters Museum in Hamblen County.

Working with heritage groups in both communities, the new displays help to tell the whole story of Tennessee's Civil War to an increasing number of heritage tourism visitors to the Volunteer State.

The Parker's Crossroads exhibition marks an important step in the 20-year effort to save this nationally significant battlefield. It includes texts, images & exhibition cases.

The expansion of the existing Longstreet Headquarters exhibition--the Heritage Area curated & installed the first displays in 2011--moves the story to the 2nd floor of the dwelling, interpreting a period bedroom & adding panels about other key Civil War properties in the vicinity of Russellville.



The Asa Johnston Farm in Conecuh County, AL



The Walker-Kliner Farm in Maplesville, AL

Fieldwork Coordinator Katie Randall & Graduate Research Assistant Savannah Grandey kicked off the year with a reconnaissance survey of Alabama's agricultural resources. They traversed the state in 1 week, starting in the Wiregrass Region & working their way up through the Black Belt, Limestone Valleys & Appalachian Plateau.

The Alabama Historical Commission 1st approached the CHP about a survey & multiple property submission to the National Register of Historic Places last year. They wanted something similar to the Historic Family Farms in Middle Tennessee multiple property that was completed by the CHP in 1994 & has since served as an invaluable tool when nominating rural properties in Tennessee to the National Register.

Highlights from the fieldwork in January include a visit to the largely intact Dellet Plantation in Monroe County. Established by a prominent judge & U.S. Congressman in the late 1810s, the farm consists of 19 historic structures & at least 1 historic cemetery.

We also loved our trip to the African American New Deal resettlement community at Gee's Bend in Wilcox County. Though there have been some changes to individual

presentation "Breaking Ground in Civil Disobedience: The National Woman's Party."

See an update you want to share? Forward our newsletter to your friends!



There are now close to 1700 Tennessee Century Farms!

Learn about recent changes to the Tennessee Century Farms program through Dr. West's post on our new [blog](#).

Our newest Century Farms:

Bledsoe County:

Little Farm (1910)

Clay County:

Spear Farm (1910)

Dickson County:

England Farm (1899)

Gibson County:

Griffin-Ketcham Farm (1905)

Giles County:

Bryan Farm (1913)

Greene County:

Bowers Valley Farm (1909)

farm properties, the landscape of this New Deal resettlement community remains largely unchanged.

There is still much to be done in North Alabama. Randall & Grandey will be joined by Dr. West in March to complete the survey. We look forward to seeing you on the road!



An unpaved portion of the historic Trail of Tears through Missouri, which still closely resembles the original route

Work steadily continues on the Trail of Tears historic building survey.

In January, Project Director Amy Kostine & CHP Assistant Director Rachel Martin traveled the Northern & Hildebrand routes in Missouri, documenting incredible sites.

In total, the 2 traveled 1465 miles, forded 22 creeks, drove on 45 unpaved roads & documented 7 confirmed pre-1838 buildings & noted a number of others that may date to the period of significance.

Although the team saw some amazing buildings, such as the ca.1819 hewn-log McKendree Chapel in Jackson, MO, & the Snelson-Brinker Cabin, a certified site on the Trail of Tears

James D. Whittenburg Farm (1853)

Hamblen County:

Jarrel Haun Farm (1818)

Haywood County:

The Homeplace (1913)

Shaw Farm (1881)

Williams Wood (1906)

Jackson County:

Collier Farm (1873)

Lake County:

Freeman & Powell Farm (1892)

Powell Heirs Farm (1876)

Lincoln County:

Stewart Farm (1907)

Loudon County:

Henderson Farm (1910)

Marshall County:

Miller-Drake-Turner Farm (1814)

Obion County:

Buchanan Bottom Farm (1887)

Overton County:

Qualls 3 Forks Farm (1911)

Pickett County:

Storie Farms (ca. 1898)

Rhea County:

Cedar Lake Beef Farm (1845)

Robertson County:

Cold Springs Farm (1893)

Sevier County:

Loveday Family Farm

National Historic Trail, the miles & miles of unpaved roads were some of the most impressive Trail of Tears resources in Missouri.

To date, CHP staff has identified approximately 170 known or possible buildings with connections to the Trail of Tears. We look forward to continuing fieldwork on the project over the coming months in Alabama, North Carolina, Arkansas & Oklahoma.

To follow our escapades, like us on [Facebook!](#)



The entrance to Engel Stadium in Chattanooga, TN



An arial map of Rose Hill & Rosemount Cemeteries in Columbia, TN. Spellings of Rosemount vary, but signs onsite add the "u"

This semester's seminar in historic preservation is team-taught by 3 CHP staff. Dr. West provides the practical knowledge that grounds the students' field projects. Research Professor Stacey Graham shows students what international projects teach us through their approach to preservation. Assistant Director Rachel Martin challenges students to experiment with the idea of story-based preservation. A key component of the class, however, remains the field projects.

(1895)

Smith County:

Albert Nixon Farm (1912)

Sullivan County:

McCulley Easley Family Farm (1782)

Wayne County:

Spring Creek Farm (1911)

White County:

Howard Farm (1926)

K&M Farm (1900)

Williamson County:

Bud's Longview Farm (1900)

Wilson County:

Foxwood Farms (1828)

You may view or download the [Century Farm application](#) online. Deadlines are March 1, July 1 & November 1.



Bittersweet Harvest: the Bracero Program 1942-1964

This spring, the Heritage Center of Murfreesboro & Rutherford County will host

Engel Stadium in Chattanooga is a baseball stadium from 1930. Some of you may recognize it as the site where *42-The Jackie Robinson Story* was filmed. You can learn more about the historic events that occurred at Engel (including an elephant hunt & an appearance by Babe Ruth, who was struck out by a female pitcher) on their [website](#). Some of the students will develop a heritage development plan, which will include suggestions for exhibitry, an interpretive plan & a tour for the stadium.

Another group of students will go to Columbia to work with 2 cemeteries, 1 white & 1 black. Separated by a fence, both Rose Hill & Rosemount date from around the Civil War & Reconstruction periods, & they illustrate how emancipation & Jim Crow altered all aspects of Southern life. The students assigned to this project will complete a preliminary assessment for the National Register of Historic Places, work to place the properties in Tennessee Civil War Trails, create an iconography survey for Rose Hill & craft a research & preservation plan for Rosemount.

In addition, individual students will be creating preservation plans & National Register nominations for rural African American sites in Tennessee.

Bittersweet Harvest, a bilingual, 6-panel traveling exhibition that looks at Mexican migrant labor in the US, focusing on the Bracero Program.

The exhibition was organized by the National Museum of American History in partnership with the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service. The tour is made possible by Humanities Tennessee.

It will be at the Heritage Center from May 1-30, 2014. There will be a series of programs accompanying it. Watch the Heritage Center's [Facebook](#) page for more information!

The MTSU Center for Historic Preservation joins with communities to interpret & promote their heritage assets through education, research & preservation.

