

# Common Bond

## News from the MTSU Center for Historic Preservation

Fall 2013 Edition

Over the last year, there have been many changes here at the Center for Historic Preservation. Students have graduated & secured jobs in the field. Long-time staff members have retired or moved on to new, exciting opportunities. A dear friend & colleague lost his battle against a lengthy illness.

But now all the new staff are in place, & we are excited about moving forward into this new phase of the Center's work.

On October 15, we held our 1st planning retreat as the new team, & we settled on a new tagline & vision statement, which we feel reflect the legacy we have inherited as well as the future we envision. We would like to share them with you, our friends, partners & colleagues.

Our new tagline is:

**Scholars. Partners. Leaders.**

Our new vision statement is:

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

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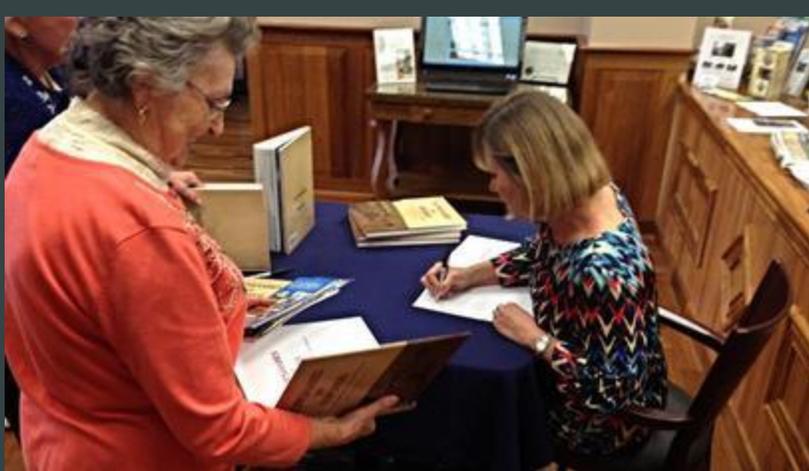
Did you realize the 2014-2015 academic year is our 30th anniversary? Be watching for chances to celebrate with us! The staff are making plans ...

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*Remembering "Occupation & Liberation" in Tennessee.*

For 4 days in October, we were in Chattanooga for "Occupation & Liberation," this year's



Caneta S. Hankins signs copies of *Plowshares & Swords*

In October, the CHP released *Plowshares & Swords: Tennessee Farm Families Tell Civil War Stories*, by Caneta S. Hankins & the late Michael Thomas Gavin. The book uses the experiences of more than 100 individual farm families from 56 counties to talk about war, home front, occupation & emancipation. Many of the book's images have never before been published.

To research the book, Hankins & Gavin dove into the rich body of materials gathered in the Tennessee Century Farms collection. They then augmented that work with additional research.

"Families whose ancestors weathered the harsh realities of the home front & rebuilt their farms during Reconstruction generously shared oral history accounts, documents & photographs," Hankins said. "Among the stories are those of former slaves who made the transition to freedom & farming their own land."

The authors both have a long history with the Center. Hankins recently retired as the assistant director of the CHP & directed the Tennessee Century Farms program from 2002-2013. In all, she worked at the Center for more than 35 years. Gavin, who passed away in early 2013, was the Preservation Specialist of the Tennessee Civil War National Heritage Area from 2002-2013. Hankins & Gavin earlier collaborated on the *Barns of Tennessee* (2008).

A list of farms, by county, included in the book can be found

Sesquicentennial Signature Event.

During the weekend, 4500 participants heard roundtable discussions with renowned Civil War historians; listened to musical performances by artists such as Bobby Horton, whose music is familiar from his work on Ken Burns' documentaries; participated in living history presentations (which drew 1300 schoolchildren) & heard University of Kentucky's Dr. Amy Murrell Taylor discuss the personal experiences of African Americans in Tennessee's contraband camps.

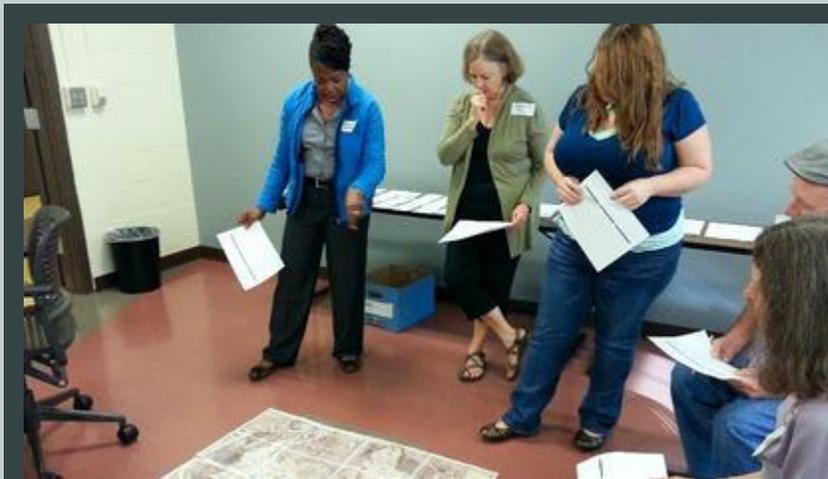
This free event was a partnership among the National Heritage Area, the Tennessee Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission, Tennessee Department of Tourist Development, Chickamauga & Chattanooga National Military Park, Friends of the Chickamauga & Chattanooga National Military Park & the Chattanooga Convention & Visitors Bureau.

Join us for next year's Signature Event, which will be held on November 13-14, 2014 in Franklin. Learn more at the Sesquicentennial Commission's [website](#).

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on [the Century Farms website](#).

For more information, or to inquire about farms in your area which are included in the book, please contact the Center. *Plowshares & Swords* costs \$55.00, shipping included, & can be ordered with a check or money order to the CHP. All proceeds go to the MTSU Foundation to support our ongoing work across Tennessee.



*Teachers at a workshop for the Tennessee Geographic Alliance use the 1507 Waldseemüller Map to explore changing conceptions of the New World.*

The **Teaching with Primary Sources** program at MTSU, the Tennessee affiliate of the nationwide TPS program of the Library of Congress, is currently in the midst of a busy fall semester, building on a packed summer schedule.

The 4th annual Civil War Summer Institute was held in June in Memphis. At this event, participants spent 3 days delving into the topic of emancipation through primary sources, expert speakers, site visits & group activities & discussion.

TPS-MTSU also produced its 2nd Teacher-in-Residence, William Hooper of Daniel McKee Alternative School in Rutherford County, as part of the Library's Level III curriculum which guides qualified TPS educators to the status of TPS Ambassador. Over the past few months, we have also offered 4 Tennessee History Day workshops in conjunction with the Tennessee Historical Society & 8 workshops focusing on how to integrate the inquiry method, Common Core State Standards & primary sources into the classroom.



*The entrance to 1 of the 1,566 Century Farms in Tennessee.*

The **Tennessee Century Farms Program** has certified 6 new farms since the beginning of October. These farms hail from Green, Haywood, Giles, Overton & Clay counties. The oldest among the recent certifications is the James D. Whittenburg Farm, which was founded in 1853, while the 5 others were founded between 1910 & 1913. Turn-of-the-century farms like these make up 208 of the 1,566 certified Century Farms.

Since Caneta Hankins retired at the end of May, graduate student Cassandra Bennett has managed the program. Bennett has been a graduate research assistant at the CHP since fall 2011. One of her 1st assignments was gathering research materials for *Plowshares & Swords*. In December, Bennett will defend her thesis & finish graduate school. Katie Randall, the CHP's new fieldwork coordinator, will take over the administration of the program. Randall is a former Center graduate

In addition to the Summer Institute, we offered additional Civil War-themed workshops: 1 in partnership with the Morton Museum of Collierville History in Shelby County & 2 in partnership with the Tennessee Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission as part of the Signature Event in Chattanooga in October.

Our upcoming schedule includes workshops on the topics of civil rights, women's suffrage, the Cold War, intersections of black & Latin Americas & early Tennessee history.

Be sure to check out our [website](#) for new lesson plans on Manifest Destiny, views of Christopher Columbus & scientific inventions, as well as newsletters on the topics of disabilities, economics, westward migration & recreation & leisure. To see our recent work, find us on [Facebook](#).



*The grand opening of the Trail of Tears Retracement Hiking Trail at the David Crockett State Park on November 2.*

Work steadily continues on our **Trail of Tears** initiatives. Tennessee has more sites on the 9-state Trail of Tears National Historic Trail than any other state, but it did not have a specific state guide. To remedy this, the CHP & the National Park Service produced a new driving tour brochure highlighting Tennessee's Trail of Tears sites.

To download the Tennessee Trail of Tears brochure, visit the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail [website](#). You can also request printed copies by emailing [Amy Kostine](#).

In August, the 10-panel exhibit "Crossroads of the Trail of Tears" opened at the Giles County Trail of Tears Interpretive Center. The CHP funded the entire development & production of the exhibit.

student, & she has worked with the Land Trust for Tennessee at Glen Leven Farm.

To schedule a workshop on the Century Farms program or to request an application, please [email](#) the Center or visit the [website](#).



*Savannah Grandy, graduate research assistant, teaches students from the Boys & Girls' Club about Rutherford County's history*

Exciting things are happening at the **Heritage Center of Murfreesboro & Rutherford County!** We are currently hosting a traveling exhibit entitled "Long Remembered: The Associated Press with Lincoln at the First Inaugural & Gettysburg." This 14-panel exhibit not only highlights the first inauguration & the Gettysburg Address, but it also explores reactions to the landmark speech. The exhibit will be at the Heritage Center until December 12, 2013, & there is no cost to come see it.

To commemorate the 150th

We also completed fieldwork in Illinois & Kentucky for the Trail of Tears historic buildings. We should finish Alabama & Tennessee in the upcoming months.

In addition to the historic building survey, work has wrapped up on the development & interpretation of the 2.5-mile Trail of Tears Retracement Hiking Trail in the David Crockett State Park. The CHP along with the state park & the National Park Service National Trails Intermountain Region developed 2 kiosk exhibits & 4 wayside exhibits. The interpreted trail officially opened on November 2.

anniversary of the Gettysburg Address, on November 19th, the Heritage Center will be hosting a special event entitled "Mr. Lincoln on the Square." Mr. Lincoln, played by Dennis Boggs, will read the Gettysburg Address & answer questions as Mr. Lincoln. The event is free & open to the public. It begins at 11:30 a.m.

We hold similar community events regularly. To keep up on all our events, find us on [Facebook!](#)

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