



## COMMON BOND: A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2016

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### Formers' Corner

In this issue, we hear from Heather Bailey, a CHP graduate research assistant from 2007-2010. Upon graduating with her Ph.D. in Public History from MTSU in 2010, Heather immediately got a job with the [History Colorado](#) State Historical Fund, where she manages projects in the Western Field Office as a historic preservation specialist. Click [here](#) to play.

### Scholars

#### Researching Little-Known Histories

At the 2015 Ohio Valley History Conference at Eastern Kentucky University, CHP research professor Dr. Mary Evins presented her work on a Tennessee Civil War diary, the microfilm of which is housed at the Tennessee State Library and Archives. The diary was written by 22-year-old Confederate private James Alexander Polk Fancher, of the 16<sup>th</sup> Tennessee Infantry Regiment, who was taken captive by Union forces in January 1864 along the Calfkiller River in White County, Tennessee. After months of struggling to



*arrived at Chattanooga  
marched up to Provost Marshal's  
office & sent from there  
& put into an old, dirty  
lowsey jail house amongst  
other prisoners, we got  
1 Cracker & a Cup of Coffee  
to each man to eat  
after riding all day in  
the cold. Here part of our*

James Fancher and a copy of his diary entry from January 16, 1864.

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Leavenworth, Kansas, through the Nebraska Territory and into the Colorado Territory. For two years he kept a journal of his experiences, initially as a Confederate captive and then on the prairie through 1865, with some of his notes in code to record Confederate news and private concerns. Dr. Evins is editing this manuscript with plans for future publication.

Also last Fall, Ph.D. candidate and CHP graduate research assistant (GRA) Lydia Simpson traveled to San Antonio, Texas, to present at the Southeastern Society of Architectural Historians (SESAH) annual meeting. In a session titled "Industrial Architecture/Modernism," Simpson discussed [Riverside Village](#), in Rome, Georgia, as a rare intersection of a new hi-tech, multinational corporatism and new practices in landscape architecture popularized in the South by Earle Sumner Draper and his contemporaries, just as mill village construction fell out of favor within the textile industry on the eve of the Great Depression. –*Stacey R. Graham*

## Partners

### Southern Places: A Digital Collection Partnership with James E. Walker Library

The Center for Historic Preservation's inaugural digital repository, [Southern Places](#), continues to grow, as images and documentation from thirty years of "boots-on-the-ground" fieldwork are uploaded. Additions in 2015 included photographs of historic structures in Maury County, Tennessee, by M.A. student Brad Eatherly, and images, fieldwork notes, and architectural descriptions of several rural Rosenwald schools in Tennessee, compiled by M.A. student and CHP GRA Annabeth Hayes.



Coopertown/Cedar Hill Rosenwald School,  
Robertson County.

In addition, Southern Places will soon offer online access to the documentation behind "[The Civil Rights Movement in Selma, Alabama, 1865-1972](#)" (2013) by CHP director Dr. Carroll Van West, with research assistance from Dr. Abigail Gautreau and others. Gautreau, CHP digital humanities researcher, is digitizing architectural and historical research on the churches and schools that fostered the [Civil Rights Movement in Selma](#).

The CHP's digital humanities research fellow, Dr. Susan W. Knowles, helps coordinate the work of GRAs to ensure the continued expansion of Southern Places. In partnership with Walker Library and MTSU's Geospatial Research Center, Knowles is also facilitating the creation of interpretive Web interfaces (mapping projects and thematic Web sites) that will promote future access to Southern Places. –*Susan W. Knowles*

## Leaders

## New Driving Tour: Historic African American Schools of West Tennessee

Historic African American Schools of West Tennessee: A Driving Tour is now available online and in print. The brochure provides short histories and photographs of eight schools that served black students during the twentieth century and remain on the landscape today. CHP staff, students, and interns contributed text and images.



Mt. Zion School in Gibson County.

Included in the brochure are **Allen-White School** (Whiteville), constructed from 1918-1920 with a phenomenal \$9000 contribution from the local community; **Polk-Clark High School** (Milan), which today features a two-room heritage center open to the public; **Mt. Zion School** (Bradford), which hosted many community gatherings in rural Gibson County; **Trenton Rosenwald School**, a comprehensive school whose last high school class graduated in 1968; **Carver High School** (Brownsville), a segregated school until 1970 whose most famous student was Tina Turner; **West Bemis School** (Jackson), possibly the oldest school (1916) built with Rosenwald funds still standing in Tennessee; **Webb School** (McKenzie), which began as the Carroll County Training School in 1923; and **Bruce High School** (Dyersburg), which had a renowned marching band and now features a heritage room open to the public.

—Antoinette G. van Zelm

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## Upcoming

February 25: **Teaching with Primary Sources—MTSU Workshop**, "Silver or Gold: Exploring the Currency Debates of the Late 1800s and Early 1900s," Heritage Center, Murfreesboro.

March 11: **Teaching with Primary Sources—MTSU Workshop**, "Crossing the Veil: A Young W.E.B. DuBois in Rural Tennessee," **Tennessee Council for Social Studies Annual Conference**, Franklin.

May 20-21: Symposium, "**Memories of a Massacre: Memphis in 1866**," University of Memphis.



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