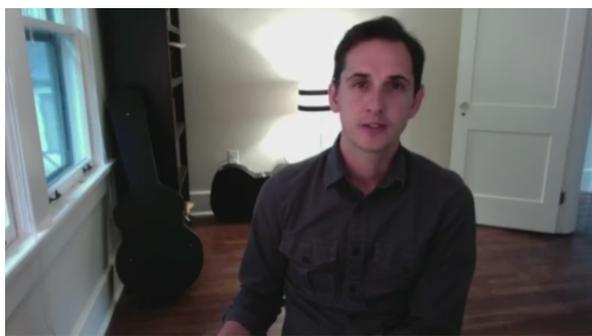




## COMMON BOND: A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2016

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### Formers Corner

Brian Dempsey earned his Ph.D. in Public History at MTSU in 2009, working as a fellow at the Center for Historic Preservation while completing his study of blues heritage tourism in the Mississippi Delta. He is a creative director/brand manager for O'Neil Hagaman and is currently overseeing a privately funded heritage

preservation development initiative for the town of [Wilson, Arkansas](#). Click [here](#) to view the video.

## Scholars

### Our New Staff Members

We are excited to welcome two new colleagues to the CHP, fieldwork coordinator Ashley Brown and programs manager Lydia Simpson. Both are graduates of MTSU's Public History M.A. program, and Lydia will graduate from the Ph.D. program later this year.

Ashley's interest in public history began when she interned at Fort Necessity National Park as an undergraduate. While at MTSU, she worked at both the Albert Gore Research Center and the Rutherford County Archives. She then joined the staff at [Grand Portage National Monument](#) in Minnesota, where she completed a National



Lydia Simpson, left, and Ashley Brown, right, have joined the Center for Historic Preservation.

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Property (TCP) nomination on the Ojibwe's use of Isle Royale, Michigan. Ashley is proficient in social media and has launched CHP accounts on Twitter ([@MTSU\\_CHP](#)) and Instagram ([MTSU\\_CHP](#)).

As a CHP graduate research assistant, Lydia made key contributions to Civil War-related projects and developed a strong background in survey work, the use of ArcGIS technology, and digitization through her role as project coordinator for the Rutherford County Historic Structures Digitization and Re-Survey Project. Community-based project work has been the hallmark of Lydia's research for her dissertation, which looks at the development of [Riverside Village](#), a rayon-mill village near Rome, Georgia, where her mother grew up. She has completed archival research on the village, done a structural survey of the buildings, and interviewed many community members.

We are thrilled to welcome these talented young scholars to the CHP! —*Antoinette G. van Zelm, assistant director.*

## Partners

### Guide for African American Resources

"[Preserving African American Historic Places: Suggestions and Sources](#)" is now available on the CHP's Web site for the use of our partners throughout the state. The guide directs readers to a myriad of resources useful for the preservation and interpretation of historic places. It also features in-depth essays that provide context for these places, with sections on cemeteries, churches, schools, businesses, lodges, farms, houses, and neighborhoods. With links to numerous digital resources, "Preserving African American Historic Places" covers such topics as heritage tourism, collections care, fundraising, and museum management.

This new electronic tool is a collaborative effort that brings together research and recommendations developed by CHP staff over the last several years. While it is geared specifically to our partners who care for African American sites, many of the insights are relevant to historic places of any type. —*Antoinette G. van Zelm, assistant director.*



Churches, including Bewley's Chapel in Hamblen County, are among the resources featured in our new guide.

## Leaders

### Cemetery Preservation Workshops

In response to community requests and interest, the CHP conducted its first-ever cemetery preservation workshops this spring. With the help of an MTSU Public Service Grant, research professor Stacey Graham coordinated a series of three workshops designed to provide basic training in cemetery documentation and care. The primary goal was to train current and former graduate students in MTSU's Public History program in introductory best practices for historic cemeteries, with the intent that these students would then use that knowledge for the benefit of communities in their future jobs as preservation professionals.



Graduate student Taylor Stewart scrubs a military tombstone at the Old City Cemetery in Murfreesboro.

The student training workshop was led by Jason Church, materials conservator with the [National Center for Preservation Technology and Training](#), and included a tombstone-scrubbing afternoon in Murfreesboro's Old City Cemetery. Many of the students and CHP staff trained at the first workshop then attended one of the community-based workshops in the following weeks, to help teach community members the techniques they had learned. These workshops were held in Columbia, at Rose Hill and Rosemount cemeteries, and in Alexandria, at the National Register-listed Alexandria Historic Cemeteries District. Twenty-three dedicated community members joined us for these follow-up workshops to ask questions, share stories, and learn up-to-date methods for taking care of their historic cemeteries.

The CHP plans to offer more community-based workshops and resources in the coming year.  
—*Stacey Graham, research professor*

## Upcoming

May 20-21: Symposium, "[Memories of a Massacre: Memphis in 1866](#)," University of Memphis.

June 9-10: [Teaching with Primary Sources—MTSU Workshop](#), "Excerpting Text Documents," East Tennessee Historical Society, Knoxville.

June 14-16: [Teaching with Primary Sources—MTSU Summer Institute](#), "Tennessee in the New South: Politics and Progressivism," Murfreesboro and Nashville.





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