



COMMON BOND: A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2017

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Formers Corner

This issue's former CHP GRA profile is of Kevin Cason, who graduated from MTSU in 2009 with a Ph.D. in Public History. Kevin, a CHP GRA from 2005-2009, currently works as an archivist at the Tennessee State Library and Archives in Nashville. Click [here](#) to watch the video.

Scholars

Jenny Andrews Does In-Depth Research on the Moore Farm and the Cane Ridge Community

We always hope to create synergy between CHP projects and graduate students' research interests. This definitely occurred over the last two years with the Moore Farm/Southeast Park project in Davidson County. CHP Graduate Research Assistant Jenny Andrews, who has a background in agricultural and gardening history,



CHP Graduate Research Assistant Jenny Andrews with a Singer sewing machine at the Moore Farm, located in the Cane Ridge community of Davidson County, Tennessee.

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became the lead student on the project and developed her Master's thesis out of her research.

In 2015, Metro Parks of Nashville and Davidson County asked CHP Director Dr. Carroll Van West and a team of staff and students to assess the 179-acre Moore farm, part of a larger anchor park planned for Antioch. Jenny worked closely with former Fieldwork Coordinator Ashley Brown and other students to prepare an assessment of the preservation needs of the farm and a contextual history of the farm and its surroundings. The team's findings are available online in a Story Map titled "[Moore Farm/Southeast Park Historic Interpretation](#)" and in a Heritage Development Report presented to Metro Parks.

For her thesis, Jenny investigated the history of the Cane Ridge community set within the social and geographical context of the region. Her research included exciting archival finds and fascinating conversations with members of the Cane Ridge community. Jenny's work will inform the shaping of Southeast Park, influence its historical interpretation, and facilitate preservation efforts in Cane Ridge, a community facing extreme development pressure.--*Dr. Antoinette G. van Zelm, Assistant Director*



TPS-MTSU staff with the 2017 Summer Institute participants, at Dunbar-Carver Museum in Brownsville, Haywood County, Tennessee.

Partners

Educator Summer Institute Explores Jim Crow African American Communities

[Teaching with Primary Sources – MTSU](#) recently conducted its eighth annual Summer Institute, gathering in Brownsville to examine the topic of "Building Communities in the Age of Jim Crow." Eleven educators joined us at the [West Tennessee Delta Heritage](#)

[Center](#) to explore this topic through Library of Congress primary sources. Dr. Mary Hoffschwelle, professor in the MTSU Department of History, joined us on Day 1 to provide a historical overview of our theme.

The second day of the institute was, as it always is, devoted to site visits. To help educators get a different perspective on the theme of African American education during Jim Crow, we took them to three preserved Rosenwald schools in West Tennessee, with Tennessee State Historian Dr. Carroll Van West as our tour guide. We visited the [Dunbar-Carver Museum](#), set in the historic Dunbar-Haywood County Training School in Brownsville; Whiteville's [Allen-White School](#), the Tennessee Rosenwald school that received the largest donation for its construction from local African Americans; and the [West Bemis Rosenwald School](#) (today called the Walter Brewer-Bemis Community Center), the oldest extant Rosenwald school in Tennessee. At each of the schools, alumni and community members came out to meet the teachers and share the history of

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Jackson, we made our last stop at the [Flagg Grove School](#). This school, which Tina Turner attended as a child, was saved from neglect and completely rebuilt at the West TN Delta Heritage Center to tell the stories of Turner's career and of early African American education in Haywood County.

On Day 3 of the institute, Will Kelley of Kirby High School in Memphis gave a presentation on a W.E.B. DuBois-Booker T. Washington lesson plan he created for TPS-MTSU. The educators then took all the content, activities, and primary sources they had explored during Day 1, and what they had learned during the site visits to historic buildings on Day 2, and started creating their own classroom lessons on the Age of Jim Crow.--*Dr. Stacey R. Graham, Research Professor*

Leaders

Transforming the *Trials and Triumphs* Digital Collection

After receiving matching funds from the [Tennessee Civil War National Heritage Area](#), James E. Walker Library's digital scholars and librarians worked in partnership with staff and graduate students at the CHP to put hundreds of new primary sources online. Telling the story of how Tennessee transformed itself into a modern state—from the Civil War to Civil Rights--this digital collection focuses on the game-changing individuals, events, and influences that shaped our history.

Who is responsible for the transformation? The citizens of Tennessee! Some were newly emancipated from enslavement; others were foreign-born. They claimed the right to vote for new leaders, start their own businesses, find jobs in emerging industries, and live in new communities. Even before they won the right to vote in 1920, women played an outsized role in the social and economic transformation of Tennessee. Many of those who pushed the state to progress became nationally famous, like civil and women's rights advocates Mary Church Terrell and Ida B. Wells, and newspaperman Adolph Ochs, founding publisher of *The New York Times*.

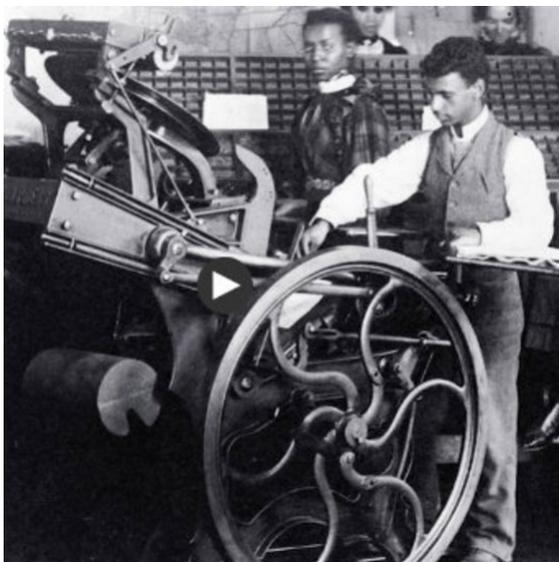
These stories and many others are told by the photographs, maps, documents, and objects included in the newly expanded *Trials, Triumphs, and Transformations* digital collection. The enhanced collection boosts the site's institutional partners to more than forty statewide and includes our neighbors at the [Southern Highland Craft Guild](#) in Asheville, North Carolina, and the [Hagley Museum and Library](#) in Wilmington, Delaware. *New interactive digital tools like this [timeline](#) underscore how quickly some things*



Marian Heard (seated), first director of Arrowmont School of Arts and Crafts, and Virginia King, posing with a display of handicrafts. Courtesy of the Archives of the Southern Highland Craft Guild.

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Sources--MTSU [lesson plan](#) and accompanying [Story Map: Jim Crow and the American Road Trip](#) explore the difficulties African Americans faced while traveling newly created tourist highways like the [Dixie Highway](#).--*Dr. Susan W. Knowles, Digital Humanities Research Fellow*



Courtesy of Nashville Public Television.

...And More!

***The Early Black Press: Tennessee Voices Lifted* Reaches a National Audience**

During the Sesquicentennial, the Tennessee Civil War National Heritage Area partnered with [Nashville Public Television](#) to develop a series of award-winning Civil War documentaries that reached more than 4 million viewers. Building upon that success, NPT and the Heritage Area have continued their partnership through [The Citizenship Project](#), exploring the struggles for U.S. citizenship from the end of the Civil War

through the Civil Rights era.

The Early Black Press: Tennessee Voices Lifted documents the rise of black-owned newspapers, as many of Tennessee's African Americans gained the right to free expression for the first time. Despite significant opposition, these newspapers covered issues from the African American community's perspective, including voting rights, education, migration, culture, and civil rights.

The Nissan Foundation recently sponsored the National Newspaper Publishers Association/Black Press of America 2017 Conference in Baltimore. Nissan requested 200 DVDs of *The Early Black Press: Tennessee Voices Lifted* program to distribute to attendees, bringing these largely unknown stories to a national audience. NPT also plans to distribute the documentary to PBS stations through the National Educational Television Association. If you haven't seen this outstanding documentary, you can watch it online [here](#).--*Laura S. Holder, Tennessee Civil War National Heritage Area Federal Liaison*

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Kelli M. Gibson, CHP Graduate Research Assistant in Digital Projects, presenting at the ESRI/ArcGIS Education Conference in San Diego, July 2017. Gibson transformed the Northeast Nashville Community History Project driving tour created by CHP Graduate Assistant Denise Gallagher Fisher and Dr. Carroll Van West into a GIS map, and assisted in the creation of a Story Map highlighting the role public historians can play in preserving cultural heritage in at-risk neighborhoods.

Upcoming

Teaching with Primary Sources—MTSU Workshops:

- September 8th – “Theme, Tricks, and Tips: Intermediate National History Day Teacher Workshop” with the East Tennessee Historical Society Knoxville.
- September 22nd – “Immigration in the Early 20th Century in America” at the Heritage Center, Murfreesboro.
- September 27th – Tennessee Council for History Education Conference in Nashville.
- September 29th – “Building Community in the Age of Jim Crow” at the East Tennessee Historical Society in Knoxville.
- October 27th – “Teaching Historical Thinking” at the East Tennessee Historical Society in Knoxville.

Sept. 1-30: *Path to Freedom* exhibition on African American education in Maury County, [Heritage Center of Murfreesboro and Rutherford County](#), 225 West College Street, Murfreesboro.

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