



### Formers' Corner

Scarlett Miles (CHP GRA 2006-2007; MA in Public History 2012) is a historic preservationist at the Metropolitan Historical Commission of Nashville/Davidson County. The MHC offers technical assistance for historical markers and National Register nominations and advocates for the preservation of historic structures and spaces through education, events, and awards. Scarlett manages the Preservation Awards Program, which recognizes preservation projects of outstanding quality in Davidson County. [Click here](#) for the video.

### Scholars

**Charlie Dahan**  
Researches Recorded Music Sites



Charlie Dahan on site at King Records in Cincinnati. Courtesy of Charlie Dahan.

We are excited to have Charlie Dahan working with us on several projects related to the rich music history of the twentieth century. During the current academic year, Dahan is completing the residency portion of his Ph.D. in Public History at the Center.

A professor in MTSU's Recording Industry Department, Dahan began his residency last fall by working with Center director Dr. Carroll Van West and field work coordinator Savannah Grandey on the Metro Nashville Landmarks application for Hank Snow's Rainbow Ranch in Madison. Snow, a legend of the Grand Ole Opry, lived on the property from 1950 to 1999. To write the historical significance section of the application, Dahan used liner notes available at the [Center for Popular Music](#), radio and sales charts, deeds, and Snow's autobiography.

Another of Dahan's projects took him north of Tennessee to Cincinnati, where Syd Nathan's independent King Records label recorded country and R&B artists who were being ignored by major labels in the aftermath of World War II. Dahan completed a National Register nomination for the endangered King Records building, which is in the process of being saved by the city and local entrepreneurs. A future museum/community heritage initiative will be a major breakthrough for this nationally significant site across the Ohio River.

This spring, Dahan will continue to work on several projects related to Memphis's Soulsville neighborhood, where Stax Records is just the most famous location within a vibrant music scene. "There is so much incredible history in this small neighborhood," says Dahan. More about Soulsville and Dahan's other projects can be found in his [online portfolio](#).—*Antonette G. van Zelm, assistant director*



The Longview Cemetery east so named for its sweeping view of downtown Knoxville, which can be seen in the distance.

### Partners

**African American Historic Cemeteries, Knoxville**

One of the Center for Historic Preservation's Professional Services Partnerships for the 2017-18 cycle is a project involving three historic African American cemeteries in Knoxville: *High Meadows* and the *West View Community Action Group* invited the Center to research these Jim Crow-era cemeteries and to create an outdoor signage and a brochure.

Southern Chain Cemetery was founded in 1898 on land sold to the Southern Chain Oddfellows Lodge by William Bradley, a formerly enslaved Virginian who had been moved to Knoxville by the white Baker family before the Civil War. Bradley's son-in-law, William Lutton, owned a funeral home and established the neighboring Longview Cemetery in 1915. The third cemetery, *Crescentview*, opened in 1922 and quickly became Knoxville's largest African American cemetery, with several prominent Knoxville citizens buried there. Many of the people associated with the cemetery lived in nearby Mechanicville, a historically African American neighborhood just northwest of downtown Knoxville.

The three cemeteries occupy a single city block and are largely overgrown with trees and brush. They are part of the larger *West View Historic Cemetery District* which represents a diversity of cemetery types and cultural contributions. We hope this project will bring much-needed attention to these historic African American cemeteries and highlight their importance to the history of Knoxville in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.—*Stacey Graham, research professor*

### Leaders

**Surveying the Santa Fe Trail**

From 2012 through 2015, the Center for Historic Preservation partnered with the National Trails Interpretation Program of the National Park Service on a nine-state survey to document buildings associated with the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail. Last year, we joined together again to survey buildings associated with the Santa Fe National Historic Trail.

From 1821 to 1880, the Santa Fe Trail, nicknamed the "Great Prairie Highway," served as an important trade route spanning approximately 900 miles from western Missouri to Santa Fe, New Mexico. In 2017, Center director Dr. Carroll Van West, Trail of Tears project historian Amy Kostine, and former fieldwork coordinator Ashley Brown headed to Missouri to start the survey, beginning at the trail's original eastern terminus in Franklin and ending in Kansas City.

In 2018, the project continues to move forward, as Amy, new fieldwork coordinator Savannah Grandey, and research assistant Sherry Teal retrace the trail to document hundreds of extant historic buildings using a digital survey form and GIS platform developed by the Center for previous work along the Trail of Tears. From homes to stores, taverns to churches, much of the Santa Fe Trail's fascinating built environment is being documented across Missouri, laying the foundation for work in additional states as the project progresses.

With connections to a number of nationally significant historic trails (including the Pony Express Trail, Oregon Trail, California Trail, and the 1838 Potawatomi Trail of Death), the Santa Fe Trail survey is a major Center initiative this year. Be sure to follow our [Center Facebook page](#) and [blog](#) to learn more!—*Laura Hólder, federal liaison, Tennessee Civil War National Heritage Area*



The John C. Thompson House (c. 1858), a witness building located on the outskirts of Alton, Missouri, along the Santa Fe Trail.



The Center thanks its visiting scholar, Dr. Tomasz Tomaszek, a materials conservation expert at the Rzeszow University of Technology in Poland, for spending three months researching the Center's rich files on log architecture in Tennessee. He is pictured here with Savannah Grandey at the Doe Creek School in Henderson County.

### Upcoming

**February 15—Teaching with Primary Sources—MTSU workshop, "The New Deal," Heritage Center, Murfreesboro.**

**March 12—Teaching with Primary Sources—MTSU workshop, "Woman Suffrage," East Tennessee History Center, Knoxville.**

**March 18—"The Road to Suffrage: Knoxville, A Program of the Tennessee Woman Suffrage Centennial Collaboration," East Tennessee History Center, Knoxville.**

**October 24-28—"Slavery, Resistance and Community: The 5th Annual Slave Dwelling Project Conference," MTSU.**