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### Formers' Corner

Michael Strutt (CHP GRA, 1998-2002) brings the hands-on experience he gained at the CHP to his current position as director of the cultural resources program for the [Texas State Parks](#) system. He manages a team of 16 curators and archeologists who care for the state's history, archeology, objects, and cultural landscapes, and travels across the state of Texas working with many types of resources within the parks system. For his [dissertation](#) on slave housing and landscapes in Tennessee, he conducted a statewide survey of slave houses and living spaces. Read more [here](#).

### Scholars

#### The 5th Annual Slave Dwelling Project Conference

This fall, the Tennessee Civil War National Heritage Area partnered with the [Slave Dwelling Project](#) to host the 5th Annual Slave Dwelling Project Conference at Middle Tennessee State University. The Slave Dwelling Project's mission is simple yet powerful--to identify extant slave dwellings and assist in preserving them. With that in mind, we developed a conference that



Colson Whitehead's keynote speech was a highlight of the Slave Dwelling Project Conference. MTSU photo by Aaron Thompson.

gathered about 250 historians, students, community leaders, and the public to participate in a [multi-day program](#) filled with speakers, discussions, and opportunities to connect.

Building upon this year's theme of "Slavery, Resistance, and Community," the conference started on a high note with an evening event featuring the world-renowned Fisk Jubilee Singers. After two days of sessions that highlighted scholarly research and community-based projects, Colson Whitehead, Pulitzer-Prize winning author of *The Underground Railroad* (2016), delivered the keynote address, sponsored by the Heritage Area. Delving into the heart of the African American experience, Whitehead's memorable, self-deprecating, and thought-provoking presentation (which was open to the public free of charge) challenged attendees to reflect upon the legacy of slavery both past and present.

This year's conference also incorporated art, music, and roundtable discussions about the places that tell the "whole story" of slavery and its aftermath. Several attendees stayed overnight at Murfreesboro's Bradley Academy Museum and Cultural Center, a historic African American school that opened in 1918, honoring and remembering the experiences of the enslaved and their descendants. The conference concluded with a day of tours at Clover Bottom Mansion, the Hermitage, and Fort Negley in Nashville. Attendees left with a renewed understanding of just how deeply slavery, resistance, and community were intertwined.—*Laura Holder, Heritage Area federal liaison.*

### Partners

#### New Exhibit Installed at Clay County Courthouse



Left to right are Mary Loyd Reneau, Clay County Museum; Mark Dudney, Upper Cumberland Development District; Mary Lean Bartlett, Free Hills Community Center; Harris Abernathy, CHP; and Susan Knowles, CHP.

"Flowing through Time in the Upper Cumberland: [Life in Clay County](#)" chronicles Clay County's rich history through nine panels at the historic courthouse in Celina. Center staff and students installed the exhibit in November 2018, culminating a year of working with the community to research people and places, share stories and photographs, and create a final display to engage local residents and visitors.

The exhibit, a Center professional services partnership project that was supported by the Tennessee Civil War National Heritage Area, implemented part of a [Heritage Development Plan](#) completed by the Center for the courthouse in 2011. The National Register-listed courthouse, an architectural gem built in 1873, is well on its way to becoming a culture and welcome center.

The new exhibit explores several significant elements of Clay County history, including its early Native American inhabitants, the city of Celina and its evolution over time, the Cumberland River, the Free Hills African American community, the Civil War, statesman Cordell Hull, the courthouse itself, and the area's unique cultural history. There is plenty of room at the courthouse to add panels on additional topics later. One of the highlights of the installation occurred when Celina Mayor Joe Rich recognized a quotation from his great-great-grandfather, Erasmus Osgatharp, on the Civil War panel.

The Center will be accepting applications for new [professional services partnerships](#) over the next few months. Feel free to contact us if you would like more information about this opportunity.—*Antoinette van Zelm, assistant director.*

### Leaders

#### Discover Tennessee History: A Collaborative to Support K-12 Educators

When [Teaching with Primary Sources-MTSU](#) (TPS-MTSU) launched in 2008, the program sought to build strong partnerships with key organizations across the state that also worked with the K-12 education community. Over the years, these partnerships have resulted in a number of exciting workshops, institutes, and the sharing of resources with Tennessee's larger K-12 community.



Looking to the future and the rollout of new social studies standards for K-12 in the 2019-2020 school year, TPS-MTSU and its partners saw the need to better coordinate and communicate the resources available to support the teaching of Tennessee history. We therefore launched a new initiative—Discover Tennessee History. The partnership includes the East Tennessee Historical Society, Tennessee Historical Society, Tennessee State Library and Archives, Tennessee State Museum, Tennessee State Parks, and TPS-MTSU.

Discover Tennessee History offers educators new, effective professional development opportunities and educational resources focused on what each of our organizations does best: the collection, preservation, and interpretation of the primary sources of Tennessee history, whether they be diaries, newspapers, letters, oral histories, artifacts, or historic places. The first goal for Discover Tennessee History was to create a comprehensive professional development calendar to help educators easily find workshops in their region, and this is now available at [tennesseehistory.org/discover-tn-history](#).

This summer, we will offer our first conference: "Discover Tennessee History: Stories, Strategies, Sources." The conference will feature breakout sessions from each of the partner organizations and the sharing of resources to support the new social studies standards. Dr. Carroll Van West, Tennessee state historian, will be the keynote speaker and will address why Tennessee history matters. The conference will take place on June 4 at Jackson State Community College. The registration link will be available soon at both the [Discover TN History](#) and the [TPS-MTSU](#) Web sites.—*Kira Duke, educational specialist.*

### Upcoming

February 4—Opening and Reception for "Stories of the Road" Exhibit, [Heritage Center of Murfreesboro and Rutherford County](#), Murfreesboro.

February 20—[Teaching with Primary Sources—MTSU Workshop](#), "The Values of Democracy in Action: Teaching America's Social Movements," University of Tennessee, Martin.

February 22—[Teaching with Primary Sources—MTSU Workshop](#), "The Story of Tennessee," featuring Professor Carole Bucy, Volunteer State Community College, Gallatin.

March 8—[Teaching with Primary Sources—MTSU Presentation](#), "Oral Histories and Historical Memory: Soldiers in the Second World War," [Tennessee Council for Social Studies Conference](#), Gatlinburg.

March 9—[Teaching with Primary Sources—MTSU Workshop](#), "Beginnings of a Movement," in partnership with the East Tennessee Historical Society, Green McAdoo Cultural Center, Clinton.

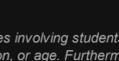
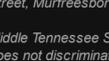
March 29--[Teaching with Primary Sources—MTSU Workshop](#), "Teaching Woman's Suffrage," in partnership with the [Tennessee Woman Suffrage Centennial Collaborative](#), Pink Palace Museum, Memphis.

April 5—[Teaching with Primary Sources—MTSU Workshop](#), "Tennessee History Highlights/Hands-on-History Workshop," in partnership with the East Tennessee Historical Society, Birthplace of Country Music Museum, Bristol.

April 6—[Teaching with Primary Sources—MTSU Workshop](#), "The Civil War's Impact in Tennessee," East Tennessee History Center, Knoxville.

June 4—[Discover Tennessee History Conference](#): Stories, Strategies, and Sources, Jackson State Community College, Jackson.

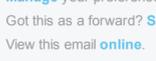
*The Rutherford County Convention and Visitors Bureau, a partner of the Heritage Center of Murfreesboro and Rutherford County, is conducting a survey of visitors who live more than a one-hour drive (approximately 50 miles) from the county and visited Murfreesboro, Smyrna, La Vergne, or Eagleville in 2016, 2017, or 2018. All responses will be confidential and will be reported to the Rutherford County Convention & Visitors Bureau as an aggregate total. Thank you for participating!*



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