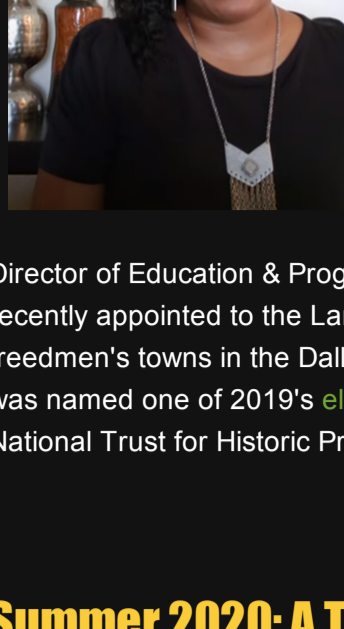


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Formers' Corner

Katherine Haskel graduated from MTSU with an M.A. in Public History and a concentration in Museum Studies. As a graduate research assistant at the Center for Historic Preservation from 2004-2006, she worked on National Register nominations, publications, and exhibits, such as the Cemetery community exhibit at Stones River National Battlefield. Her thesis explored African American women's benevolent organizations.

After graduation, Katherine worked at Belle Meade and the Tennessee State Museum. Her current position is Director of Education & Programs with the Dallas Historical Society, where she was recently appointed to the Landmarks Commission. Her research area includes freedmen's towns in the Dallas area. One of these, the [Tenth Street Historic District](#), was named one of 2019's [eleven most endangered sites](#) in the United States by the National Trust for Historic Preservation. [Click here](#) to watch the video.

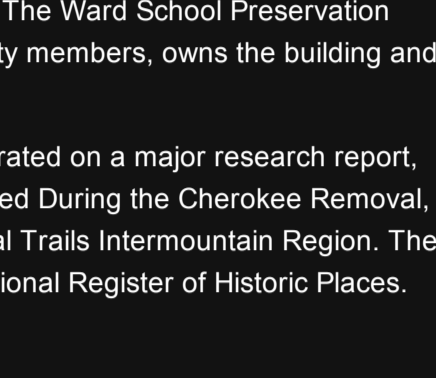
Summer 2020: A Time of Challenges, and Opportunities

For more than 35 years, no matter the time or issue, the [MTSU Center for Historic Preservation](#) has been committed to doing its best to bring faculty, students, and resources to bear on the heritage challenges and opportunities faced by communities across Tennessee and the South. The summer of 2020 is no different. Travel restrictions and social distancing are not ideal ways of collaboration, but they are reality right now, and will be impediments only if we let them. By working with university officials over the last four months, we have found ways to keep our student-centered, community-anchored projects moving forward.

Keeping everything organized and on track during this unprecedented time is the Center's new executive aide, Alexandria McMahan. She has been at the Center since 2016, when she came on board as secretary. Originally from Knoxville, McMahan has maintained a love for Tennessee history and a passion for preserving it. She has a B.A. in History with a minor in Twentieth Century European Studies from MTSU.

New National Register Properties

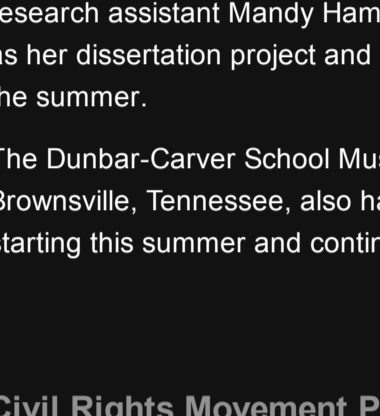
With the new experience of review board hearings held on the Internet, Savannah Grandey and Amy Kostine capably defended three new nominations to the National Register of Historic Places in April and May. In April, Kostine defended the national-level listing of the ["State Road-Hill Cemetery"](#) segment of the Cherokee Trail of Tears in Kentucky. In May, Grandey defended the nomination of the Sulphur Fork Bridge in Port Royal State Historic Area outside of Clarksville and the [Ward School](#) in Hartsville,



Ward School Preservation Association members with Center staff.

Troutdale County, Tennessee. The historic African American school developed out of an earlier Rosenwald Fund building and is an excellent example of a rural "equalization" school from the late 1940s and '50s. The Ward School Preservation Association, made up of alumni and local community members, owns the building and initiated the listing.

Kostine, Grandey, and Dr. Carroll Van West collaborated on a major research report, "Rivers, Rails & Roads: Transportation Systems Used During the Cherokee Removal, 1837-1839," for the National Park Service's National Trails Intermountain Region. The report identifies possible new properties for the National Register of Historic Places.



The Lee-Buckner School in Williamson County.

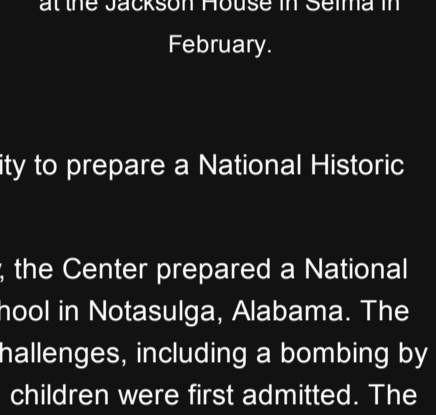
Rosenwald Schools

In Williamson County, the Center has joined the [Heritage Foundation of Williamson County's](#) effort to restore and interpret the Lee-Buckner School, the county's last Rosenwald school. The ca. 1927, 1940 building served African American children in the Duplex/Spring Hill area until the 1960s. Dr. West and Savannah Grandey surveyed the property with Heritage Foundation preservation staffers Rachael Finch, Dr. Blake Wintory, and Grace Abernathy. PhD research assistant Mandy Hamilton is taking on the property's history and preservation as her dissertation project and has worked with the Heritage Foundation throughout the summer.

The Dunbar-Carver School Museum, the site of an original Rosenwald school in Brownsville, Tennessee, also has reached out for exhibit assistance and planning starting this summer and continuing into the fall.

Civil Rights Movement Projects

A site visit with county officials at the Haywood County Poor House and Penal Farm outside of Brownsville led to Dr. West's preliminary assessment of this important historic property that dates to 1868. Community leaders are determined to restore and interpret the farm's cemetery and the stories of those who toiled there.



Community members and Center staff at the Jackson House in Selma in February.

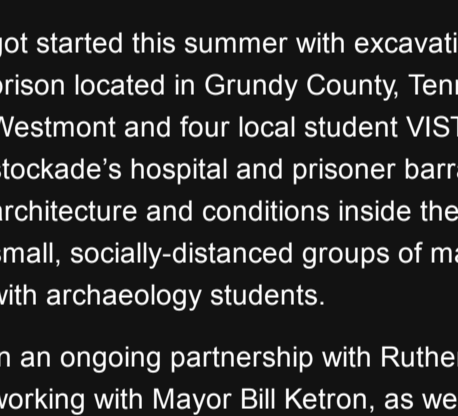
In Memphis, Dr. West worked with Dr. Nicole Trent of the [National Civil Rights Museum](#) at the [Lorraine Motel](#) and members of the Civil Rights Movement Survey project at Georgia State University to prepare a National Historic Landmark study of the Lorraine Motel.

Working with the school's alumni and retired faculty, the Center prepared a National Register nomination for the Macon County High School in Notasulga, Alabama. The Spanish Revival-style building has survived many challenges, including a bombing by segregationists in April 1964 after African American children were first admitted. The school is associated with the legal landmark Civil Rights case *Lee v. Macon County Board of Education*, which set a new precedent for on-the-ground, federal enforcement of school integration. Dr. West, Savannah Grandey, and PhD research assistant Colbi Layne Hogan prepared the nomination.

[Teaching with Primary Sources - MTSU](#), led by education specialist Kira Duke and research professor Dr. Stacey Graham, will be offering a webinar on September 1 focused on the many Civil Rights educator resources the program has created over the years. This webinar is part of TPS-MTSU's new push to engage educators through virtual platforms; videos of materials and workshops can be accessed at the [TPS-MTSU YouTube channel](#).

Savannah Grandey, PhD research assistants Meggan McCarthy and Victoria Hensley, and Dr. West collaborated with Dr. Thomas Flagel of Columbia State Community College on a heritage development plan for Franklin's historic Carothers Farm, which will be open to the public in the future as a historic park. The project is an innovative partnership between Goldberg Companies, Inc., the Williamson County African American Heritage Society, and City of Franklin Parks.

In Selma, Alabama, Dr. West, Dr. Crystal DeGregory, Kira Duke, Savannah Grandey, and graduate research assistants Meggan McCarthy, Mandy Hamilton, Steph McDougal, and Catie Latham began interpretation and collections studies for the Jackson House and the Burwell-Dinkins House. The Jackson House is a National Historic Landmark, and a National Register nomination of the Burwell-Dinkins House is also underway.



Townsend School community members met with Center staff and students to discuss how to preserve and reuse the school.

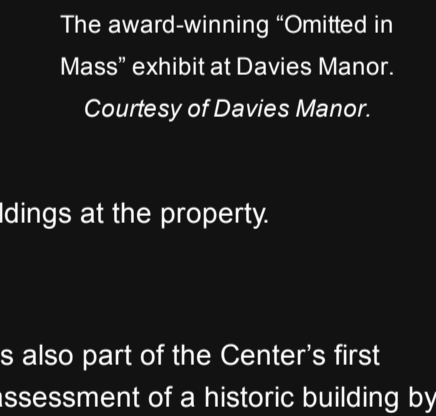
Tennessee Civil War National Heritage Area

The Townsend Cultural Center in Winchester, a former Rosenwald school in Franklin County, recently received a [Tennessee Civil War National Heritage Area](#) collaborative partnership to develop an exhibit on a United States Colored Troops veteran, the Reverend "Doc" Anderson Townsend, for whom the school was named. Graduate research assistant Keneisha Mosley is preparing exhibit panels on Townsend's life.

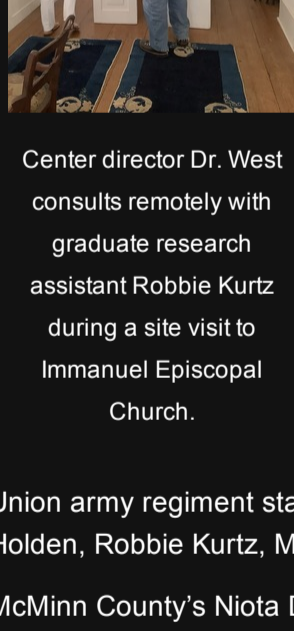
Another new Heritage Area partnership project got started this summer with excavations at the Lone Rock Stockade, an 1870s private prison located in Grundy County, Tennessee. The University of the South's Dr. Camille Westmont and four local student VISTA volunteers excavated the remains of the stockade's hospital and prisoner barracks, unearthing artifacts related to the prison's architecture and conditions inside the prison. Dr. Westmont led tours of the site for small, socially-distanced groups of masked visitors and will return to the site this fall with archaeology students.

In an ongoing partnership with Rutherford County, Dr. West and Dr. Lydia Simpson are working with Mayor Bill Ketron, as well as county archival and information technology staff, to create exhibits for the historic courthouse. The first exhibit panels, installed earlier this year, focused on the history of the building and the public square; the panels now under development will deal with a broad range of topics relevant to county history, from Reconstruction through modern industrialization.

A new professional services partnership led by Dr. Antoinette van Zelm and Dr. Simpson is creating a Historic Structure Report on [Davies Manor](#) in Bartlett, Shelby County. The museum is listed in the National Register and is considered one of the oldest houses in West Tennessee. Staff at Davies Manor have researched the site's African American history and won the Tennessee Association of Museum's 2020 Past Presidents Award for the exhibit "Omitted in Mass: Rediscovering Lost Narratives of Enslavement, Migration, and Memory Through the Davies Family's Papers." PhD research assistant Robbie Kurtz is assisting the assessment of the historic buildings at the property.



The award-winning "Omitted in Mass" exhibit at Davies Manor. Courtesy of Davies Manor.



Center director Dr. West consults remotely with graduate research assistant Robbie Kurtz during a site visit to Immanuel Episcopal Church.

In June, Robbie Kurtz was also part of the Center's first serious venture into the assessment of a historic building by virtual examination when Dr. West and Savannah Grandey inspected the lingering plaster wall issues at Immanuel Episcopal Church in La Grange, Fayette County. The Union Army used the church as a military hospital during the Civil War. Using MTSU's Zoom license, Dr. West took his iPhone to use as a video camera, and he and Robbie discussed the plaster issues via Zoom as fascinated congregation members listened intently. Will this become a new normal for Heritage Area projects—who knows?!

Also in June, the Center submitted the final draft of the study for Amis Farm, Hawkins County, Tennessee. While the report focuses on the 1781-82 historic stone house—one of the oldest buildings in Tennessee—research uncovered that the third family owner, Thomas Jefferson Amis, was a devoted Unionist throughout the Civil War, a citizen whose loyalty was repaid later, in 1875, with \$357 in damages incurred when a Union army regiment stayed at the farm in late 1864. PhD research assistants Ethan Holden, Robbie Kurtz, Mandy Hamilton, and Steph McDougal drafted the report.

McMinn County's Niota Depot, the oldest railroad station in Tennessee and the subject of a [CHP Preservation Needs Report](#) in 2007, is getting new exhibit panels and an interpretive brochure, just in time for the centennial commemoration of the Tennessee legislature's vote for woman suffrage in 1920. The Heritage Area took the report, developed exhibit panels about the building's Civil War history, and then Dr. van Zelm added new panels about the building's connection to the suffrage vote. Truly, a project that reflects the National Park Service's theme "from Civil War to Civil Rights"!

The Niota Depot project is just one of the Center's many efforts for the 100th anniversary commemoration of woman suffrage. In March, Nashville Public Television premiered at MTSU its documentary on woman suffrage in Tennessee, [By One Vote](#), which had been supported in part by the Tennessee Civil War National Heritage Area due to the documentary's focus on the Reconstruction-era roots of the suffrage controversy. Dr. van Zelm has been working with the Rutherford Arts Alliance on a new county-wide driving tour about women's history, as well as a spring 2021 play on Rutherford women, [Party of Twelve](#). Dr. West worked with Nashville Opera on a new commissioned opera, [One Vote Won](#), which focuses on Tennessee African American women and premiers online in September. In July, Dr. West participated in the discussion and decision from the National Historic Landmarks Committee of the National Park Service to list Nashville's Hermitage Hotel as a National Historic Landmark for its role in the suffrage events of 1920.

Graduating GRAs

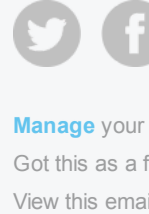
The Center for Historic Preservation is proud to announce that two graduate research assistants will be graduating in August:

Murfreesboro native Max Farley, a graduate of Rhodes College, successfully defended his M.A. thesis on institutional slavery at the University of Alabama. He has held a joint appointment with the History Department. While at the Center for Historic Preservation, he created a sub-collection on Tennessee industry for [Southern Places](#).

Catie Latham, who earned her B.A. at MTSU, was supported in her internship research by fieldwork conducted in her native Hickman County under the auspices of the Tennessee Civil War National Heritage Area, supervised by federal liaison Laura Holder. Latham's thesis, "The Preservation of Public Space in Uncertain Times: The Hickman County Courthouse, 1925-2020," deals with the implications of Hickman County's recent sale of its 1925 courthouse. --*Common Bond editors*

Upcoming

- August 12—[Teaching with Primary Sources – MTSU Webinar](#): "Digging In with TPS—MTSU: State Parks" (online)
- September 1—[Teaching with Primary Sources – MTSU Webinar](#): "The Long Civil Rights Movement: Resources and Discussion" (online)
- September 8—[Discover Tennessee History Webinar](#): "Discover Tennessee History" (online)
- September 10—[Teaching with Primary Sources – MTSU Webinar](#): "Digging in with TPS-MTSU: Fads in History" (online)

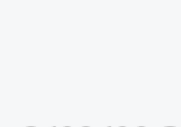


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