



Common Bond

MTSU Center for Historic Preservation Newsletter

Teaching with Primary Sources across Tennessee: An Exciting New Tool for Explorations into the Past



President Sidney McPhee and Dr. Carroll Van West celebrated the announcement of the Library of Congress grant with members of our Congressional delegation on April 29. (L-R) Sen. Lamar Alexander, Dr. James Billington, McPhee, Rep. Bart Gordon, West, and Sen. Bob Corker.

The Center for Historic Preservation (CHP) is proud to embark on a new program that will connect Tennesseans with millions of primary source items that represent American history, culture, arts, and sciences. Teaching with Primary Sources is a program of the Library of Congress that seeks to engage students, teachers, adult learners, professors, librarians, and museum educators in using primary sources to explore major issues and questions in many different disciplines. These explorations are facilitated by the library's effort to digitize over eleven million primary source items and make them available through its Web site.

With the support of Senators Lamar Alexander and Bob Corker and Congressman Bart Gordon, the Library of Congress has awarded \$600,000 to Middle Tennessee State University to implement the Teaching with Primary Sources program in Tennessee. MTSU president Dr. Sidney McPhee flew to Washington, D.C., to celebrate this important grant at the Library of Congress with Alexander, Corker, Gordon, and Dr. James Billington, the librarian of Congress. He was joined by CHP director Dr. Carroll Van West, who is codirector of Teaching with Primary Sources across Tennessee, along with CHP assistant director Caneta Hankins.

"Serving Tennesseans through the Library of Congress's Teaching with Primary Sources program creates another national partnership for the Center for Historic Preservation," noted West. "The Library of Congress Web site includes the complete papers of Abraham Lincoln and Thomas Jefferson, the records of the Historic American Buildings Survey, the Historic American Engineering Record, and many items from the American Folklife Center. With so much evidence available through the Internet, we see great potential in the program for those of us engaged in literature, folklife, history, art, music, the environmental sciences, geography, and anthropology."

"Tennesseans will experience Teaching with Primary Sources through workshops, seminars, lesson plans, course units, Web site resources, Web casts, and a wide range of other programming," added Dr. Stacey Graham, the program's statewide coordinator. "We want to engage students in critical thinking through their own explorations of primary sources," Graham said. "We have three years to establish the statewide program and we have already developed exciting partnerships with the National History Day competitions in Tennessee, the East Tennessee Historical Society, the Tennessee Historical Society, and across MTSU through a University-wide committee."

For more information about this program, contact the CHP and speak with Dr. Stacey Graham, project coordinator, at (615) 494-8783, send an e-mail to sgraham@mtsu.edu, or visit www.mtsu.edu/tps.



Dr. Stacey Graham conducted a Teaching with Primary Sources workshop with teachers from Metro Nashville Public Schools on August 7.

Tennessee Civil War Trails Kicks Off in Franklin



On September 17, 2008, the Tennessee Civil War Trails officially kicked off its statewide marker program on the steps of the historic Williamson County courthouse in Franklin. Before a crowd of over 100 people, the state's first Civil War trail marker was unveiled in a ceremony that celebrated this outstanding sustainable tourism initiative. Commissioner of Transportation Gerald Nicely, Commissioner of Tourist Development Susan Whitaker, Civil War Trails Executive Director Mitch Bowman, Civil War

Preservation Trust Chairman Tod Sedgwick, and Tennessee Civil War National Heritage Area Director Carroll Van West were among the distinguished speakers at the event; each was instrumental in bringing the Trails program to Tennessee. Members of the Tennessee General Assembly, local government officials, and staff from the offices of Senator Lamar Alexander and members of Congress Marsha Blackburn and Lincoln Davis also attended to celebrate this new development in tourism, economic development, and Civil War-era interpretation.

Tennessee Civil War Trails identifies and interprets both well-known and lesser-known Civil War sites, offering a complete story of the war years to visitors and residents. In addition to markers and directional signage, statewide driving tour brochures and online tours will be available to direct visitors to properties on the trail. The Civil War Trails Web site also connects the Tennessee program with trails in Virginia, West Virginia, Maryland, and North Carolina.

With consistent support from Governor Phil Bredesen, the Tennessee Department of Tourist Development administers the program in partnership with the Tennessee Department



State officials unveiled the state's first Civil War trail marker on September 17. (L-R) Sen. Jack Johnson, Dr. Carroll Van West, Rep. Glen Casada, Rep. Steve McDaniel, Mr. Mitch Bowman, Commissioner Susan Whitaker, Mr. Tod Sedgwick, Commissioner Gerald Nicely, Mr. Dan Klatt, and Mr. Walter Durham.

of Transportation, the Tennessee Civil War National Heritage Area, and the Tennessee Wars Commission. Two grants from TDOT provide an 80/20 federal matching grant, which allows the state to implement the program with the majority of the costs and fees covered. Staff from the Center for Historic Preservation and the Tennessee Civil War National Heritage Area are working closely with the state historian, Tennessee State Library and Archives, and the Wars Commission to research, write text, and locate powerful images for the interpretive markers.

Additional markers will be installed in east, middle, and west Tennessee this fall, and more markers are planned for installation in 2009. During the first phase of development, approximately 75 markers will be in place by this spring. As the program progresses, the trail will become the foundation of the state's effort to attract national and world travelers to our Civil War stories.

For more information on how your site can participate in the Tennessee Civil War Trails program, please contact

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(615) 532-8077
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CHP Student Workers, Fall 2008



Ph.D. Students

Heather Bailey (B.S. in psychology, Tennessee Technological University; M.A. in history, MTSU) is completing her third year in the Ph.D. in Public History program. Please see page 4.

Kevin Cason (B.A. in history, Belmont University; M.A. in history, MTSU), is a fourth-year Ph.D. candidate in the Public History program. A recipient of the Provost's Writing Fellowship, his dissertation is titled "Sippin', Pausin', and Visualizing: Creating a Corporate Identity through Advertising." Cason is maintaining Web sites for the Tennessee Century Farm program and the Heritage Education Network.

Brian Dempsey (B.A. and M.A. in history, James Madison University) is a fourth-year Ph.D. candidate in Public History. Awarded the Provost's Writing Fellowship, he is finishing his dissertation on blues heritage tourism in the Mississippi Delta. At the Center for Historic Preservation, Dempsey is researching an exhibit on concerts at Murfreesboro's Murphy Center.

Spurgeon King (B.S. in history and international affairs, Florida State University; M.A. in history/historic preservation, MTSU) worked for more than 20 years as a preservation consultant in upstate New York and is a third-year Ph.D. candidate in Public History. King is researching the Civil War in east Tennessee and has worked on projects for the Longstreet Headquarters in Hamblen County and for the Southeast Development District's 10-county Civil War driving tour.

Susan Williams Knowles (B.A. in French and art history, Vanderbilt University; M.L.S. George Peabody College; and M.A. in art history, Vanderbilt University) is a third-year Ph.D. student. She is also an independent museum curator who has organized exhibitions and projects for the Frist Center for the Visual Arts, Fisk University, the Tennessee State Museum, and the National Museum of Women in the Arts. At the Center for Historic Preservation, Knowles is pursuing research projects on Tennessee art and architectural history and the marble industry in Tennessee.

M.A. Students

Megan Akerstrom (B.A. in history, New Mexico State University) is starting her second year on the historic preservation track of MTSU's Public History program. Akerstrom works at the Heritage Center of Murfreesboro and Rutherford County, where she is working on a history of the Murfreesboro Electric Department. Her master's thesis addresses the impact of the Dixie Highway on Murfreesboro during the 1920s.

Paul Hoffman (B.A. in history, Vanderbilt University) served for six years in the Navy and was stationed in Japan and San Diego before moving back to Nashville. Working for a local historic restoration company, he assisted in projects on Nashville landmarks such as the Ryman Auditorium, the Downtown Presbyterian Church, and the Tennessee State Capitol before starting graduate school. Hoffman is completing his master's thesis on the Avery Trace, the first land route into middle Tennessee.

Jason McClanahan (B.S. in mechanical engineering, Tennessee Technological University) worked for four years as a nuclear plant support engineer for TVA. After making a joke to his wife about switching careers, he found himself going for an M.S. degree in computer science. When not battling code, McClanahan likes to shovel coal on the steam locomotive of the Tennessee Valley Railroad Museum. At the CHP, he provides technology support to staff and students.

Katherine Merzbacher (B.A. in history, MTSU) is passionate about the preservation of historic buildings and sites in the southeast. With the CHP, Merzbacher has worked on several National Register of Historic Places nominations, preservation needs reports, and historic structure reports. She is writing her master's thesis on the impact of park and playground movements in the history and landscape design of Nashville's Centennial Park.

Student Workers continued on page 4

CHP Student Workers, Fall 2008

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Undergraduate Students

Sara Beth Gideon, a sophomore at MTSU from Mt. Juliet, is double majoring in history and global studies. As a research assistant, she has assisted with the installation of the Civil War exhibit at the Arts Center of Cannon County, written case studies for Rosenwald Schools in Tennessee for the CHP Web site, and is currently writing entries for the *Tennessee Encyclopedia of History and Culture* and working at the Heritage Center.

Ph.D. Candidate Cements Partnership with Tourism Initiative

Heather Bailey is beginning her third year as a doctoral student in the MTSU Public History program. After serving as a graduate teaching assistant in the History Department during her first year, she came to the Center for Historic Preservation as a research assistant for her second year. While at the center, she has written articles for the *Tennessee Encyclopedia of History and Culture*, an exhibit review in the *Journal of American History*, historic structures reports, and National Register nominations. She has created exhibits for the Heritage Center of Murfreesboro and Rutherford County and promotional pieces for center partners. She has also given the occasional public speech at conferences and in classrooms.

For her professional residency, Bailey will serve as the official liaison between the Tennessee Civil War National Heritage Area and the Tennessee Department of Tourist Development as they continue their ongoing partnership to support sustainable tourism projects in the Smoky Mountains gateway communities. In addition to her upcoming work in east Tennessee, Heather will also continue working with the Buford Pusser Museum in Adamsville, Tennessee, to implement recommendations from the heritage site development plan she coordinated with some of Dr. West's students in his spring Seminar for Historic Preservation class.

Before returning to MTSU to pursue the Ph.D., Bailey served as director of the Paris-Henry County Heritage Center in Paris, Tennessee. After working as a museum professional

Christina Runkel is pursuing her B.A. in history at MTSU. For the CHP, she works at the Heritage Center and has written several entries for the *Tennessee Encyclopedia of History and Culture*. She also serves as a tour guide at the Sam Davis Home. Christina spent two years as the president of the MTSU History Club, leading historical resource tours to Chattanooga, Colonial Williamsburg, and New Orleans.



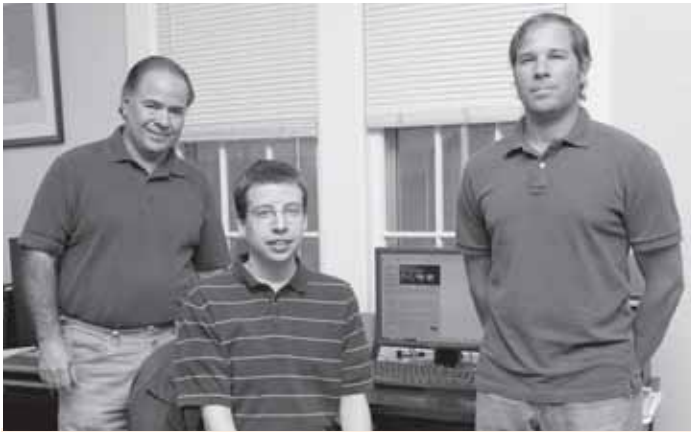
Heather Bailey makes adjustments to the "Place Names of Rutherford County" exhibit at the Heritage Center of Murfreesboro and Rutherford County.

and community advocate in Henry County, Bailey is focusing on heritage tourism. Her work for the Center for Historic Preservation and her upcoming professional residency will all support her dissertation, "Hillbilly Skits to Buford Sticks: Sustainable Heritage Tourism in Tennessee," which she is currently writing. Of her work at the center, Bailey said, "The Center for Historic Preservation really provided me the opportunity to do the type of work I was interested in learning to do within a mentoring framework that trained me. I'm as big a fan of learning from mistakes as the next person, but I'd rather learn from the professionals who are creating the best practices for the field."

A Tradition of Student Learning and Placement

Since its establishment, the CHP has prided itself on creating a research culture that involves faculty, staff, and students from multiple disciplines. Over the past year, the center provided assistance to eleven undergraduates, five M.A. students in Public History, and five Ph.D. students in Public History. Three additional MTSU students volunteered at the Heritage Center of Murfreesboro and Rutherford County or with the Tennessee Civil War National Heritage Area.

The synergy between research, education, and public service equips CHP-trained students to compete well in positions across the nation. Recent CHP graduate assistant hires include Julie Lenger as project coordinator with the Freedom's Frontier National Heritage Area (Kansas and Missouri) and Betsy Snowden as curator of collections for the Pendleton District Commission of Pendleton, South Carolina.



Center research assistants. (L-R) Spurgeon King, Kevin Cason, and Paul Hoffman.

Tennessee Scholarships Available for National Trust Conference in Nashville

The 2009 National Preservation Conference is coming to Nashville, October 13–17, 2009. This annual conference is the premier educational and networking event for community leaders, volunteers, and staff working toward preservation goals.

The National Trust for Historic Preservation and the MTSU Center for Historic Preservation want to ensure that Tennessee's cultural, economic, and geographical diversity is well represented at the conference.



Ann Hendrix

Center Staff Updates

Ann Hendrix joined our staff as secretary in May 2008. Hendrix is originally from Murfreesboro, but has lived all over the United States. She attended MTSU from 1966 to 1968 and took classes from 2000 to 2003 toward a degree in Criminal Justice. Her career at MTSU began in May 1990. Hendrix has previously worked in Facilities Services, News and Public Affairs, and Printing Services. She obtained her CPS certification in 2000.

Melissa Zimmerman, heritage programming specialist with the Heritage Area since 2005, left in August 2008. She and her husband, Kyle, have relocated to Louisiana, where he has accepted a position in the division of theatre and speech at University of Louisiana–Monroe. With her background in museum management, Zimmerman helped successfully launch the Heritage Center of Murfreesboro and Rutherford County. We wish Melissa and her family the best of luck.

We are pleased to welcome back **Lauren Batte** to our staff. A former graduate student at the CHP in the early 1990s, Batte worked with Carnton Plantation and the American Association for State and Local History, gaining valuable experience with heritage organizations. She later worked at the CHP from 2003 to 2005, where she served as conference coordinator for the International Heritage Development Conference in Nashville.

Those with a permanent Tennessee connection who wish to enhance their knowledge of historic preservation and use this information to improve the economic and social well-being of their communities are encouraged to apply for a scholarship. The Tennessee Scholarship covers registration for educational sessions and one field session; it does not cover transportation or lodging.

For more information about this program, contact the CHP and speak with the Tennessee scholarship coordinator, Anne-Leslie Owens, at (615) 494-8938 or e-mail alowens@mtsu.edu.

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Mark Your Calendar

April 16-17

Statewide Preservation Conference 2009

Murfreesboro, Tennessee

See www.tennesseepreservationtrust.org for more information.

October 13-17

National Preservation Conference 2009

Nashville, Tennessee

See www.preservationnation.org for more information.

October 14

Center for Historic Preservation 25th Anniversary Reception

Nashville, Tennessee

Mark your calendars and join fellow colleagues, friends, partners, and MTSU alumni to celebrate the CHP's 25 years of research and public service. Time and location to be announced in the next issue of *Common Bond* newsletter and on our Web site.

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