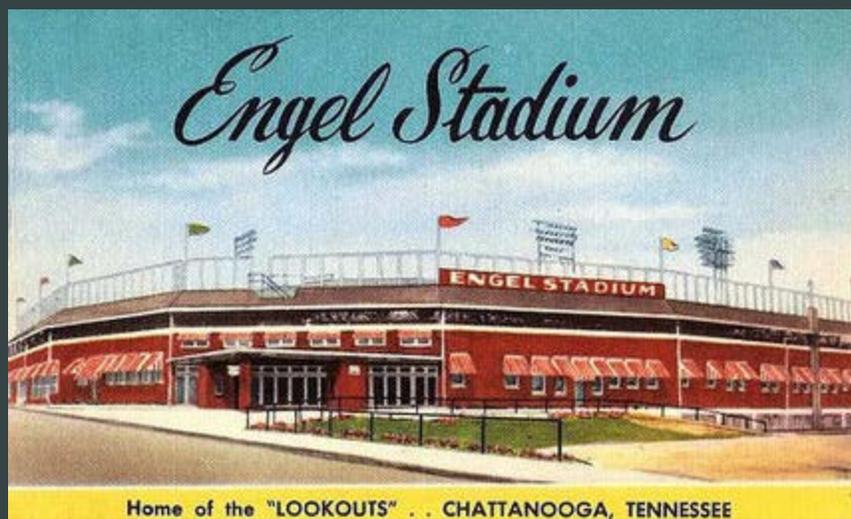


# Common Bond

News from the MTSU Center for Historic Preservation

Scholars. Partners. Leaders.

Spring 2014



This 1950s postcard from Chattanooga's historic Engel Stadium shows the venue in its heyday.

The University of Tennessee at Chattanooga's Engel Stadium is steeped in history, & the Center for Historic Preservation is working to preserve its future. Today, it is 1 of only 34 pre-World War II minor league ballparks still standing, but until recently its fate was in doubt.

Founder Joe Engel was known as the "Barnum of Baseball" for his ingenious promotions, which included an elephant hunt & a free house. Built during the Great Depression, the ballpark hosted legends such as Willie Mays & Jackie Robinson. Engel attempted to sign a female pitcher after she (possibly) struck out Babe Ruth & Lou Gehrig in the stadium. In addition, Engel used his building to host outreach programs such as a soup kitchen & the Knothole Gang, a boys club for at risk youth. It was also where the movie *42* (the Jackie Robinson Story) was filmed in 2013.

When the Lookouts, its home team, moved to a newer venue in 1999, Engel was at risk. In 2004 UTC offered a reprieve by taking ownership of the grounds, & in 2009 [the Engel Foundation](#)

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Want to know more about the projects in our newsletter? Check out our blog [Southern Rambles!](#)

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The graduate students chat at the end-of-the-year potluck before heading out for their summer adventures.

Classes have ended, & our graduate students have started their summer work.

Some are staying here, continuing the projects they began during the school year. Others are off to pursue various internships, residencies & research opportunities.

In June, Amanda Barry, Aleia Brown & Virginia Foster

formed to save the stadium itself. Yet both entities struggled to find ways to preserve, promote & interpret the storied site. This spring they turned to the CHP for help.

Under the direction of Assistant Director Rachel Martin, MTSU graduate students Joseph Bryan, Thomas Flagel, Brad Miller & Jenna Stout created a detailed heritage plan. Included are designs for a new museum & gift shop, best practices for structural preservation, historic walking tours, UTC student engagement activities, interpretive signs & a marketing strategy to reach the local community & heritage tourists.

To read more about the students' experiences working with Engel, read Jenna Stout's recent [blog post](#).

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See an update you want to share? Forward our newsletter to your friends!

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New Civil War Trails markers line the walk through Franklin's reclaimed Eastern Flank Battlefield.

The [Tennessee Civil War National Heritage Area](#)'s mission during the Sesquicentennial is to create a system of education & commemoration that will outlast the official anniversary events.

An important way we have accomplished this is through participation in the Civil War Trails program in partnership with the Tennessee Department Tourist Development & the Tennessee Department of Transportation.

This program identifies both nationally-recognized sites & lesser-

Cannon will be presenting at the 2014 American Democracy Project & Democracy Commitment National Meeting.

Aleia Brown & Torren Gatson will present on the panel "Hidden in Plain Sight: Examining Different Visions of Civil Rights Activism" at the Association for the Study of African American Life & History in September.

In addition, Brown has had a chapter proposal accepted for *Liberating Society: Black Women in the Development of American Culture and Society*, an upcoming anthology by the Association for Black Women.

Abigail Gatreau was part of "Toward a History of Civic Engagement & the Progressive Impulse in Public History," a working group at this year's National Council on Public History's annual meeting.

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To follow our escapades, like us on [Facebook!](#)

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Educators work with primary sources at the "Teaching Early Tennessee History" workshop at Travellers Rest on March 14th.

known local stories across the state, deepening the public's understanding of the Civil War. Tennessee has already been recognized by Congress as a Civil War National Heritage Area statewide, an action that laid the foundation for the work & research that allowed this program to become so successful.

Currently, there more than 290 marked sites in 77 counties across the state. By the end of the program, there will be at least 1 marker in each of Tennessee's 95 counties.

The newest addition to the Trails program occurred in early March with the installation of 20 trail markers on the Eastern Flank Battlefield Park in Franklin. Heritage tourists can now walk the reclaimed battlefield & learn more about the war's impact in Middle Tennessee.

We will also provide 45 additional markers inside Tennessee's state parks & 9 state-owned historic sites, as well as 18 markers at heavily traveled welcome centers in the state. These high-traffic areas offer a tremendous opportunity to reach casual travelers & heritage tourists alike.

Of the 5 states participating in the Trails program, Tennessee's is the most requested guide. The success of the Civil War Trails program within Tennessee continues to be strong as our partners remain committed to promoting heritage tourism & education about the Civil War.

To learn more about specific markers, visit the [Tennessee Civil War Sesquicentennial](#) website. To download the current guide, visit the [Civil War Trails](#) website.

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**Have you made plans to attend "The Last Campaign in Tennessee," the 2014 Tennessee Civil War Sesquicentennial Signature Event? Join us in Franklin November 13-16 for educational symposiums, artifacts from the Battle of Franklin, musical presentations & living history demonstrations! More details & registration information are on the [website](#).**

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Spring has been an exciting time for our [Teaching with Primary Sources](#) program! We have piloted 2 new workshops designed to help teachers transition to the new state social studies standards that will go into effect next school year.

In March, we partnered with Travellers Rest Plantation & Museum for our 1st workshop looking at early Tennessee history. Along with our regular primary source activities, the day also included a guided tour of the house & grounds, as well as activities on quill pen writing & frontier education.

In April, we piloted our 1st world history workshop in Memphis with Shelby County Schools. This workshop will be part of a series of workshops & resources we are working on to help support 6th, 7th & high school world history teachers.

TPS-MTSU will be offering both of these workshops again in the fall in partnership with the East Tennessee Historical Society.

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We've all got issues. What's yours? Students with the American Democracy Project-MTSU canvas undergraduate students to learn what issues concern them most.

The American Democracy Project-MTSU continues to elevate civic dialogue, place civic responsibility central to & pervasive within university culture & strengthen civic ethos in higher education in Tennessee.

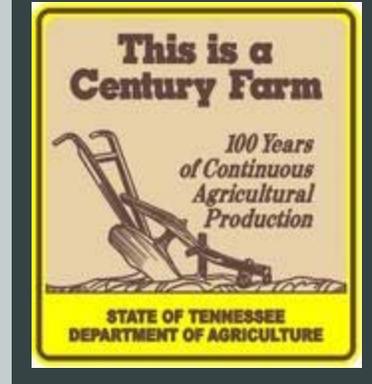
ADP-MTSU focuses on civic learning as a primary & urgent purpose of higher education. This semester the program generated opportunities for members of the university community to dialogue about issues of national & local significance.

In February, MTSU was 1 of more than 150 universities around the nation to simulcast former Secretary of Labor Robert Reich's documentary on income disparity, *Inequality for All*.

In conjunction with the film, ADP-MTSU hosted a webcast with Secretary Reich & an MTSU debate. The event allowed students & faculty to constructively engage in a conversation about the foundational economic processes that cause the increasing income inequality in our society & what we should be doing about it.

In April, ADP-MTSU partnered with civic & diversity organizations across campus to host a dialogue among community leaders of differing ethnicities & religious traditions about "wicked problems" that face our campus & community. Coming together to talk as fellow citizens in a participatory democracy makes possible the personal connections & reconciliation to bridge cultures & tear down walls.

In early June, undergraduate & graduate students associated with



Welcome to our newest Century Farms:

Bedford County:

Spring Hill Farm/The Spencer Eakin Farm (1842)

Benton County:

Wheatley Farm (1868)

Coffee County:

John F. Willis Farm (1813)

Gibson County:

Mayfield Farm (1910)

Hamblen County:

Davie Haun Farm (1900)

Knox County:

Doane Brothers Farm (1913)

Lewis & Wayne Counties:

Cothran Farm on Buffalo River (1899)

Lincoln County:

Delap Farm (1912)

Flint River Farm/Simms-Delap Families (1893)

Roden Farms (1913)

Wiley Farm (1914)

Robertson County:

Dorris Farms (1912)

Sevier County:

Paul A. Tipton Farm (1901)

Sumner County:

Brewer Farm (1850)

Wilson County:

W.D. Farms (1913)

Tennessee Century Farms has a new [Facebook page](#) where you can find (or provide) updates on our 1700+ participating farms.

ADP-MTSU (including several of the CHP's research assistants) will attend the [American Democracy Project's annual conference](#) & present on the exciting work happening here.

Our next application deadline will be July 1. You can [download the application](#) from the Century Farms website.

The MTSU Center for Historic Preservation joins with communities to interpret & promote their heritage assets through education, research & preservation.

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Got this as a forward? [Sign up](#) to receive our future emails.

