



CENTER GOES TO BATTE, GETS SHARP

Leslie N. Sharp and **Lauren Batte** are recent additions to the Center's staff. Lauren Batte joined the staff of the Tennessee Civil War National Heritage Area in January as the technical services coordinator. Her past work includes editing publications and developing a national workshop series for the American Association for State and Local History; directing educational programs for Historic Carnton Plantation; and serving as program assistant for Tennessee 200, a statewide partnership commemorating Tennessee's bicentennial. A Washington and Lee University graduate, Batte's new role brings her back to the Center for Historic Preservation, where she served as a graduate research assistant while working towards a Master of Arts in Public History. Dr. Van West commented that "Lauren Batte brings invaluable organizational skills as well as public relations and networking abilities to the Center and the Tennessee Civil War National Heritage Area. That she



Lauren Batte

has experience and training in many facets of historic preservation is another plus for the Center."

West explained that, "Like the rest of the Center staff, Sharp and Batte will be out working with people

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UPDATE ON CENTER PROJECTS



Jessica Davis and Caneta Hankins

Rutherford County Bicentennial Celebration, October 25

Hundreds of people visited the Public Square, Oaklands, Cannonsburgh, Bradley Academy, and the Sam Davis Home to view special exhibits, listen to a variety of musical groups, watch Civil War reenactors, hear storytellers, and enjoy lots of food. Center GRA Jessica Davis and intern Meghan Miller developed a Main Street History Scavenger Hunt which had people of all ages looking for clues on monuments and historic markers. Additionally, Caneta Hankins compiled a special publication that featured the county's Century Farms.

Sarah Childress Polk Concerts

In cooperation the MTSU Center for Popular Music and the James K. Polk Home in Columbia, the Center assisted in the research, planning, and production of a series of concerts featuring music from the life of Sarah Childress Polk, Murfreesboro native, to commemorate her 200th birthday in September.

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CENTER GOES TO BATTE, Contd.

and partnering with organizations across the state to provide technical assistance and experienced advice on a lot of projects.”

Sharp is responsible for the coordination of the Center’s National Register field work and documentation program. A doctoral candidate and President’s Fellow at the Georgia Institute of Technology, she will receive her Ph.D. in the History of Technology with an Emphasis in Gender, Race, Technology, and Architecture in 2004. Her dissertation is entitled “Seeking Shelter: Women as Shapers of the Built Environment, 1920-1950,” From 1995-1999 Sharp worked at the Georgia Historic Preservation Division where, primarily, she coordinated the National Register of Historic Places and the Georgia Women’s History Initiative (the first such SHPO initiative in the country), and chaired the Georgia Centennial Farm Committee. Sharp has recently completed works for publication including “Finding Her Place: Integrating Women’s History into Historic Preservation in Georgia” for the book *Restoring Women’s History Through Historic Preservation* published in 2003 by Johns Hopkins University Press. She taught courses in United States History, Cultural Resources Management, and the National Register at Georgia Institute of Technology



Leslie Sharp

and Kennesaw State University. A native of Georgia, Sharp received her Bachelor of Arts in History from the University of Georgia and holds a Master of Science from Georgia Tech as well as a Master of Arts in History with Emphasis in Historic Preservation from MTSU.

CENTER PROJECTS, Contd.

Homer Pittard Campus School 75th Anniversary Celebration

The Center has joined parents, alumni, teachers and students at the MTCU Campus School in the planning and research for the 75th anniversary of the school to be held in February. Anne-Leslie Owens wrote text for a Tennessee Historical Commission marker, installed in September, and advised on the recent repainting of the foyer in period colors.

National Register nominations approved

- Natchez Street Historic District
Williamson County
- Mt. Pleasant Commercial Historic District
Maury County
- St. Paul AME Church
Lincoln County
- Logan Henderson Farm
Rutherford County
- Hollywood and Riverside Cemeteries
Madison County
- Fite-Ligon Farm
Smith County

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE IN 2005!

The Tennessee Civil War National Heritage Area and the Center have worked closely with the Alliance of National Heritage Area (ANHA) to bring the 2005 International Heritage Development Conference to Nashville. We will host the leading professionals in heritage tourism, heritage education, and historical administration at a four-day conference that will celebrate successes and set new agendas for the field. Mark your calendars now!



*Grab your boots
and
kick up our heels
at the*

International Heritage Development Conference
Downtown Sheraton Hotel
Nashville, Tennessee, June 5-8, 2005

GRADUATE RESEARCH ASSISTANTS

The Center is hosting a record number of graduate research assistants this fall semester. Assisting staff in a wide range of project and activities are:

Jessica Davis (B.S. in History, Tennessee Technological University), a returning student, is completing research for a National Historic Landmark nomination. The Hamilton County site is associated with James Brown, a Cherokee detachment leader for the Trail of Tears.

Sarah Jackson Martin (B.A. University of Kansas, History), a returning student, will be working on various projects for the Heritage Area. This fall, Sarah was part of the team coordinating the Heritage Development Institute at the National Trust meeting in Denver.

Nancy Morgan (B.A. in University Studies, MTSU), is working National Register nominations for Cameron School in Nashville and Fisher Farm in Williamson County.

Sarah Jane Murray (B.A. in University Studies, Liberal Arts, MTSU) has begun work on a National Register nomination for the Fleetwood Building in Chattanooga and exhibit design for the Heritage Area.

Marian Scott Norris (B.A. in History, Centre College) is currently designing exhibits for the Heritage Area. She is also compiling a travel itinerary of public sites along each of the eight corridor in the Heritage Area.

David Price (B.A. in American Studies, University of the South) will be working for the CHP at the Tennessee Preservation Trust office at TSU's downtown Nashville campus. He is completing a survey of Civil Rights sites in Nashville.

Steve Smith (B.S. in History, Austin Peay State University) is doing work with the Tennessee Civil War National Heritage Area.

Laura Stewart (B.A. in Sociology and Child Psychology, University of Kansas) is completing an on-line resource page for historic schools and developing a feasibility study for the Williams-House Property in Williamson County.



Laura Stewart

Jaime Woodcock (B.A. in History, MTSU) is working on various projects for the Heritage Area. This fall, she was part of the team coordinating the Heritage Development Institute at the National Trust for Historic Preservation meeting in Denver.



The Center's Graduate Research Assistants are always ready for action. Pictured from left to right are Sarah Martin, Jaime Woodcock, Steve Smith, Sarah Jane Murray, and Jessica Davis.

ON THE CONFERENCE CIRCUIT

Center staff have attended and/or made presentations at the following conferences:

- International Conference on National Heritage Areas (Pittsburgh)
- National Trust for Historic Preservation (Denver)
- National Park Service (Los Angeles)
- Tennessee Conference of Historians (Nashville)
- Annual Conference of Resource Conservation Districts of Tennessee (Columbia)
- Tennessee Conference on Tourism (Gatlinburg)
- Tennessee Preservation Trust (Memphis)
- Western History Association (Fort Worth)
- Society for History of Technology (Atlanta)

NATIONAL INTERNS

This summer the Center initiated its national internship program by inviting student applicants to gain Center experience prior to continuing their graduate studies.

Stacey Graham (B.A. in History, University of Michigan, and M.A. in History, UCLA) This summer, Stacey researched Fort Blount and Nashville Christian Institute and wrote a brief history of Rutherford County for *Murfreesboro Magazine*.

Jim Williams (B.A. in History, College of William and Mary, M.S. in Modern History, Oxford University) This summer, he prepared a legislative history of the 1960 Tenn. Civil War Centennial Commission and developed a survey of the economic impact of Heritage Area properties.

Meghan Miller (B.A. in History, Rice University) is the first non-student to receive a year-long internship from the Center. She will be working on a survey for the Center's Heritage Education Network, supported by the National Park Service's National Center for Preservation Technology and Training.

The Center for Historic Preservation is a research and public service institute committed to the preservation, protection, enhancement, and sensitive promotion of our historic environment. A Center of Excellence at Middle Tennessee State University, it is funded by the General Assembly and the university. Now in its twentieth year of service to Tennessee's 95 counties, the Center administers several programs including the:

Tennessee Civil War National Heritage Area (TCWNHA)
Tennessee Century Farms Program
Town and Country Preservation Initiative
Tennessee Rural African-American Church Program
The Heritage Education Network (THEN)

CENTER FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION

Box 80, MTSU
Murfreesboro, TN 37132
(615) 898-2947
(615) 898-5614 (fax)
histpres@mtsu.edu
<http://histpres.mtsu.edu/histpres>



Carroll Van West, Director
Caneta S. Hankins, Projects Coordinator
Anne-Leslie Owens, Research Coordinator
Leslie Sharp, Associate Professor
Nancy Smotherman, Executive Aide

TENNESSEE CIVIL WAR NATIONAL AREA

Box 80, MTSU
Murfreesboro, TN 37132
(615) 898-2947
(615) 898-5614 (fax)
civilwar@mtsu.edu
<http://histpres.mtsu.edu/tncviwar>



Carroll Van West, Director
Lauren Batte, Technical Services Liaison
Michael Thomas Gavin, Preservation Specialist
Tiffany Godbey, Secretary
Antoinette G. van Zelm, Interpretive Specialist

EVENTS CALENDAR

February 11, Wednesday

African-American History & Culture Conference
Tennessee State University, Downtown, Nashville
For information, call the Metro Historical Commission,
(615) 862-7970.

March 6, Saturday

"The Legacy of Stones River: Slavery and the Civil War in Tennessee" Symposium
Middle Tennessee State University, Murfreesboro
For information, visit <http://histpres.mtsu.edu/tncivwar>
or call CHP at (615) 898-2947.

April 15-17, Thursday-Saturday

"Preserving Local Character: Neighborhoods, Town, and Country"
Tennessee Preservation Trust Conference
Union Station Hotel, Nashville
For more information, call (615) 259-2289.