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## Formers' Corner

Typhanie Schafer (M.A., 2019) worked at the Center for Historic Preservation (CHP) from 2016 to 2019. She cites the [West View Historic African American Cemetery District](#) and the [Morristown, TN, Walking and Driving Tours](#) as her favorite projects that she worked on. Since

graduating, she has worked in museums and local government in North Dakota and in her home state of Minnesota. She currently works for the non-profit [West Central Initiative](#), doing administrative and management work on community and economic development projects covering nine counties and one Native American reservation. Check out her video [here](#).

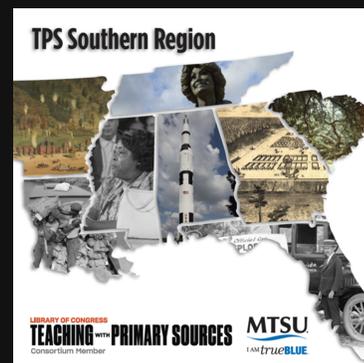
## Scholars

### An Upcoming Conference and Publication

The [Teaching with Primary Sources—Southern Region](#) will host its first-ever conference May 12-13, 2026, in Nashville. With credit to the Queen of Soul, the theme of the conference is “Think! Let Your Mind Go’:

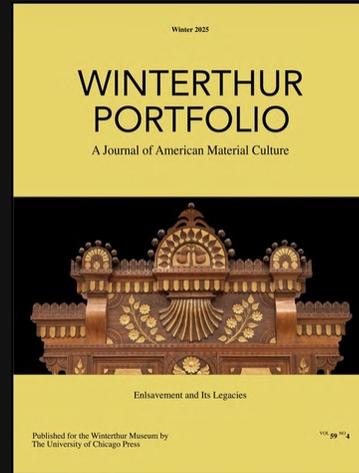
Teaching with Primary Sources in the South.” The conference will celebrate the work of current TPS-SR grant recipients from across the South and provide the opportunity to network with members of the TPS Consortium from across the nation.

Current TPS-SR grant recipients will present on a variety of topics, including “Incorporating Community History” and “Students Create.” Each session will have plenty of time for Q&A, and the conference will conclude with a hands-on activity. (In addition, this will be one of the last public events hosted by CHP director Dr. Carroll



Van West before he retires!). The conference will be held at the Tennessee State Library and Archives, with a reception at the Tennessee State Museum. Anyone who would like to learn more about the TPS-SR program, including future funding opportunities, is encouraged to attend. Please fill out this [registration survey](#) to express your interest.

Associate Director Dr. Torren L. Gatson's guest-edited volume of the *Winterthur Portfolio: A Journal of American Material Culture* will be out in print in February 2026. The "Enslavement and Its Legacies" series will include an Introduction by Dr. Gatson and scholarship from an alumna of the Center, Annabeth Hayes Dooley, who wrote, "Dovetailed into the Landscape: Understanding Lewis Buckner, a Master Craftsperson in Appalachia." Timed to coincide with the 250th anniversary of the United States, the "Enslavement and Its Legacies" volume uses material culture to examine the intertwined histories of enslavement, freedom, and Black craftsmanship. The *Winterthur Portfolio* is widely considered one of the flagship journals in the field of material culture studies.—*Antoinette van Zelm, assistant director*



The National Register-listed Armour's Hotel was the first brick hotel in Red Boiling Springs.

## Partners

### New Heritage Tourism Brochures

Heritage tourism initiatives remained front and center for the CHP and Tennessee Civil War National Heritage Area (TCWNHA) staff and students in 2025.

In the fall of 2024, staff met with the Tennessee Department of Tourist Development, the Macon County Chamber of Commerce, business owners, and residents in the historic rural town of Red Boiling Springs to discuss heritage tourism needs and opportunities.

After listening to local stakeholders, CHP director Dr. Carroll Van West worked with his 2025 spring semester graduate seminar to research and develop "[Red Boiling Springs: A Historic Walking Tour](#)." The brochure highlights Red Boiling Springs as one of Middle Tennessee's most distinctive resort towns, famed for its variety of mineral springs. The tour features twenty of the town's most scenic and historic sites and is available free of charge at the Vision 2020 Inc. Office, 252 Main Street.



The Orange Mound Community Center and Library at the National Register-listed Historic Melrose High School is the heartbeat of the community.

A similar project was developed for the Preserve America-designated community of Orange Mound, Memphis's oldest historic African American neighborhood. The CHP and the TCWNHA maintain a long-standing partnership with Orange Mound's residents and stakeholders and had developed a neighborhood **driving tour** in 2015. When the community reached out for an updated version, we were ready to assist.

After meeting with local partners, Dr. West and graduate seminar students surveyed, researched and developed "**Gateway to Greatness: A Driving Tour of Orange Mound Landmarks.**" This updated driving tour includes 23 sites that document the community's rich history from the late 19th century through the Civil Rights movement. The brochure is available at no cost at the Orange Mound Arts Council, 2471 Park Avenue.—*Laura Holder, TCWNHA federal liaison*

## Leaders

### Land Between the Lakes National Recreation Area Trail of Tears Water Route Interpretive Signage Project

From June 1838 to March 1839, four of seventeen Cherokee detachments followed the Water Route of the Trail of Tears from the Cherokee Homeland to Indian Territory in present-day Oklahoma. While some Muscogee refugees accompanied the Cherokee, other groups of Cherokee and Muscogee had used the Water Route on their way to the West in the months and years prior to this time. Their stories are part of the rich history of Land Between the Lakes National Recreation Area of the U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and part of the broader history of southeastern Removal in the 1830s. Today, the Water Route borders forty miles of Land Between the Lakes (LBL). The national recreation area attracts 1.7 million visitors annually, providing an excellent opportunity to educate the public about the Trail of Tears, Removal, and the resilience of the Cherokee and Muscogee.



The project team visited the Turkey Bay Off-Highway Vehicle Area interpretive site with U.S. Forest Service staff.

Funding to draft, design, and fabricate eleven interpretive panels related to the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail at LBL was allocated through the National Park Service's Connect Trails to Parks funding course. The U.S. Forest Service entered into an agreement with the CHP to develop those eleven interpretive panels, which will be installed at five of the most highly visited sites at LBL: Golden Pond Visitor Center,

Hillman Ferry Campground, Fenton Hike and Bike Path, Turkey Bay Off-Highway Vehicle Area, and Piney Campground. The interpretive panels will be developed through consultation with Tribal partners, the U.S. Forest Service, the National Trails office of the National Park Service, and the Trail of Tears Association. As part of the project, the signage will also include original commissioned artwork.

In November, CHP staff member Amy Kostine, along with graduate research assistants Amelia Blakely and Stephen Simmons, traveled to LBL and met with U.S. Forest Service staff to see each of the interpretive sites and discuss potential interpretive themes for the exhibit panels. The CHP looks forward to continuing its work on this collaborative project.—*Amy Kostine, programs manager*

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## Announcements

The Center for Historic Preservation administers the Middle Tennessee Regional History Day competition as part of the larger National History Day program, and we are looking for volunteer judges. National History Day is a year-long program for middle and high school students. Students are challenged to do original historical research and create a project sharing their work tied to an annual theme. This year's theme is Revolution, Reaction, Reform in History. To sign up to be a judge, please use [this form](#). Thank you!

The CHP also administers the Tennessee Century Farms Program, and we are in the process of verifying all of our certified farms for a new book on the state's frontier farms. Sponsored by the Tennessee Department of Agriculture, the book will be published later this year in commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the United States. If you have a Tennessee Century Farm and have not yet verified with us that it is still in the family and agriculturally productive, please e-mail us at [histpres@mtsu.edu](mailto:histpres@mtsu.edu). Include your county and farm name. Thank you!

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## Upcoming

January 31—Deadline to apply for Tennessee Civil War National Heritage Area Collaborative Partnership Projects.

February 12 (online)—Digging In with the TPS-SR: Exploring Innovations in Teaching with Primary Sources, available on the [TPS-SR YouTube channel](#).

February 27—[Middle Tennessee Regional History Day](#), MTSU, Murfreesboro.

March 11-13—"Resources & Grants from the Library of Congress to Help Your Museum," [Tennessee Association of Museums Conference](#), Union City.

May 12-13 (Nashville)—TPS Southern Region Conference, Tennessee State Library and Archives (register your interest [here](#)).



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