Stefanie Haire is a historic preservation planner with the Southeast Tennessee Development District, based in Chattanooga. After earning her M.A. in Public History in 2019, Stefanie joined the Ph.D. program and is set to graduate in 2024. Her dissertation research into Horace Brazelton, the first Black photographer to open his own studio in Chattanooga, has formed the foundation of a new exhibition now on display at Ruby Falls (see article below). You can access her video at this link.

In June, Stefanie Haire, former Center for Historic Preservation graduate research assistant and current regional historic preservation planner with the Southeast Tennessee Development District, opened the exhibit “Through the Lens: The Life and Legacy of Horace Brazelton” at Ruby Falls in Chattanooga. Originally from Newport, Tennessee, Brazelton moved to the growing city of Chattanooga in 1899 and trained with a German photographer before opening his own photography studio in 1904. In doing so, he became the first Black photographer to operate his own studio in Chattanooga, documenting the familial ties, civic and religious activities, social life, and personal styles of Black Chattanoogans for decades. Horace Brazelton’s photography and portraiture provided a powerful counterbalance to harmful stereotypical images of African Americans used in the mainstream media during the Jim Crow era.
Joey Bryan of the Nashville Steam Preservation Society discusses World War II-era Locomotive No. 576 with teachers.

The exhibit also highlights the life of Hettie Brazelton, Horace’s wife, who assisted him in the photography studio and managed the business. Hettie was involved in the Phyllis Wheatley Branch of the YWCA (Young Women’s Christian Association), American Woodmen (a fraternal organization), and the Social Workers Club of Chattanooga. In addition, she served as an elder of Leonard Street Presbyterian Church. By highlighting the story of the Brazelton family, the exhibit enriches public understanding of the challenges faced by Black Tennesseans in the Jim Crow era and how individuals and families endured to establish successful businesses, households, and communities.

Haire worked with Center director Carroll Van West and fieldwork coordinator Savannah Grandey Knies to develop the content of the exhibit panels, which are now located in the lobby area of Ruby Falls, one of Chattanooga’s most heavily visited tourist attractions. Horace and Hettie Brazelton are the central figures in Haire’s forthcoming Ph.D. dissertation. Other exhibit sponsors include Picnooga (Chattanooga Historical Society), the Bessie Smith Cultural Center, and Walden’s Ridge Civic League. The exhibit is free and open to the public. It will remain at Ruby Falls (1720 S. Scenic Highway, Chattanooga, TN) until September 15, 2023.—Savannah Grandey Knies, fieldwork coordinator

Partners

TPS-MTSU Workshops on the WWII Home Front in TN

Teaching with Primary Sources - MTSU has been working to bring forward the stories of Tennesseans on the home front during the pivotal years of World War II and to help educators connect this local history to classroom learning. We kicked off this theme focus last year with the World War II Home Front in Tennessee curriculum created for TPS-MTSU by Dr. Colbi Layne Hogan. This year we've been expanding this focus through place-based, in-person workshops.

One of our partnerships, with East Tennessee Historical Society (ETHS) and with funding from Humanities Tennessee, produced a series of workshops and webinars in East Tennessee. First in this series was a webinar in February with Dr. Nancy Schurr of Chattanooga State Community College that focused on women’s roles during World War II and the 1946 Battle of Athens. Next, in April, we partnered with Cumberland Mountain State Park and Cumberland Homesteads Tower Museum to explore "The New Deal, the Civilian Conservation Corps, and Home Front Stories," highlighting the historic sites and structures in that area. Last in the ETHS series was a June workshop in Knoxville on "Researching, Collecting, and Remembering World War II."
In May, we partnered with the National Medal of Honor Heritage Center in Chattanooga and expanded on our focus on learning through place and space (see classroom guide here) with primary sources. The culmination of these events was our two-day strategies-and-sites workshop in July. Though based in Murfreesboro, educators traveled to Lebanon to explore the legacy of WWII Second Army Headquarters and of Cordell Hull at Cumberland University. Then we drove to Nashville for a tour of the Tennessee Central Railway Museum, where the Nashville Steam Preservation Society is restoring historic WWII-era Locomotive No. 576. Finally, we pored over archival letters at the Albert Gore Research Center back at MTSU. Educators had no idea how much of World War II was “fought” right here in our Middle Tennessee counties by everyday people from our own communities.—Stacey Graham, research professor

Leaders

El Rancho de las Golondrinas

Programs Manager Amy Kostine attended the 18th annual Santa Fe Spring Festival at El Rancho de las Golondrinas in early June, representing the Center for Historic Preservation at the National Register plaque presentation that was part of the weekend festival. The CHP fully funded the development of the National Register nomination for the museum, which was co-written by Kostine, Dr. Carroll Van West, and Savannah Grandey Knies. It was the first National Register nomination that the CHP has prepared for New Mexico.

El Rancho de las Golondrinas (The Ranch of the Swallows) was established c. 1743 and is believed to be one of the earliest ranches in La Cienega Valley of present-day Santa Fe County, New Mexico. It was located on the Camino Real, serving as a paraje (rest stop). In 1932, Leonora Muse Curtin and her daughter, Leonora Francis Curtin, who were leaders and advocates in the arts-and-crafts community in Santa Fe, purchased the property as a new base of operations away from their home in Santa Fe. They planned initially to keep the property as a retreat and working ranch. In 1946, Leonora Francis Curtin married Finnish diplomat Yrjö A. Paloheimo. As a former cultural attaché to the United States, Y.A. knew of his country’s tradition of “open-air” museums and became a supporter of building one in Santa Fe.

In 1965, colleague and friend Elizabeth Boyd White (E. Boyd), who was the leader of the Spanish Colonial Arts Society, sent Leonora and Y.A. an expansive plan for “a New Mexican Village Plaza” as a new project of the Spanish Colonial Arts Society, to be located at Las Golondrinas. Boyd believed that the museum would have four
purposes/goals: (1) “to show a now vanished New Mexican architecture and way of life, as surviving old houses are either in ruins or have been modernized;” (2) “to suitably display examples of old woodwork, textiles and other collections in their authentic settings;” (3) “to keep the historical exhibits alive by including living features such as: live weavers with a concession to sell their products ... a craft shop, possibly a restaurant for regional foods in proper seasons, a library of reference works, information center and book and pamphlet shop;” and (4) “botanical section of trees, shrubs & plants brought by the Spanish to New Mexico.”

Boyd’s plan became the basis for today’s roughly 230-acre living history museum, the first and only in New Mexico. The museum celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2022 and is dedicated to interpreting early Spanish and Hispano life and architecture in northern New Mexico through historic and reconstructed complexes of buildings and landscapes. The property is listed on the National Register under Criteria A for education, social history: historic preservation, social history: women’s history, and ethnic heritage: Hispanic. It is also listed under Criteria C for architecture and landscape architecture.—Amy Kostine, programs manager

**Upcoming**

**August 21-22 (Online)—**Tennessee History Day Workshops, in partnership with Teaching with Primary Sources—MTSU, “How to Approach Bias in Primary Sources” and “Authentic Assessment and National History Day.”

**August 30 (Murfreesboro)—**“Play All Night! Duane Allman and the Journey to Fillmore East” book discussion on all things Allman Brothers with author and MTSU Public History Ph.D. graduate Bob Beatty, Heritage Center, 225 West College St., 5:30 p.m.

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

**September 7 (Online)—**Teaching with Primary Sources—MTSU Workshop, “Digging In with TPS-MTSU: Civic Holidays” Webinar.

**September 14 (New Johnsonville)—**Teaching with Primary Sources—MTSU Workshop, in partnership with Johnsonville State Historic Site, “Places Tell Stories: New Johnsonville from the Civil War to TVA.”

**September 27 (Nashville)—**Tennessee Council for History Education Conference, “Civil Discourse in a Not So Civil World.”

*Be sure to check out the TPS—MTSU “Upcoming Workshops” page for additional professional development opportunities in Fall 2023.*