Tennessee State Museum Winter 2023 Newsletter & Calendar of Events

Tennessee. State Museum.

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.memphis.edu/govpubs-tn-miscellaneous-departmental-publications-board-tn-state-museum

Recommended Citation

This Report is brought to you for free and open access by the Miscellaneous Tennessee Departmental Publications at University of Memphis Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Tennessee State Museum by an authorized administrator of University of Memphis Digital Commons. For more information, please contact khggerty@memphis.edu.
In 2023, the State Museum will embark on an in-depth look at the history and legacy of what were known as Rosenwald Schools. These schools for Black children in the segregated era south were the result of an unprecedented partnership between Booker T. Washington, the president and founder of the Tuskegee Institute; Julius Rosenwald, a philanthropist and president of Sears, Roebuck and Company; and local communities. The Museum will feature this topic in two exhibitions this year. The first is *A Better Life for their Children: Julius Rosenwald, Booker T. Washington, and the 4,978 Schools that Changed America*, a traveling exhibition of photographs by Andrew Feiler. This exhibition opens on February 24 and runs through May 21, 2023. The second exhibition focuses on Rosenwald Schools in Tennessee — *Building a Bright Future: Black Communities and Rosenwald Schools in Tennessee*. This exhibition is a partnership between the Museum and the Fisk University’s John Hope and Aurelia E. Franklin Library, home of the Julius Rosenwald Fund archive. We hope you’ll join us for both shows to learn more about these schools, the role they played in their communities, and the efforts taking place today to preserve both the structures and their stories.

Elsewhere in this issue, you’ll discover the stories behind new acquisitions related to a Johnson City serviceman in World War II; a letter from a guest at Andrew Jackson’s Hermitage; and a fiddle from a legendary Nashville musician. You’ll also find stories about updates in our permanent galleries and additions to an archive related to the Scopes Evolution Trial of 1925.

Be sure to also read about our work with Tennessee’s next generation of museum curators – the young and enthusiastic students at Robert Churchwell Museum Magnet School in Nashville.

As always, our most updated calendar of events is located at [TNMuseum.org](http://TNMuseum.org). We look forward to seeing you at Museum this year.

With sincere thanks,

Ashley Howell, Executive Director
Tennessee State Museum
In a new traveling exhibition, Andrew Feiler’s photographs document the history and legacy of Rosenwald Schools in the Southeastern United States.

In 2015, Andrew Feiler, a Jewish American photographer from Georgia, had a conversation that would inspire an important new project. While having lunch with the State of Georgia African American Program Coordinator Jeanne Cyriaque, Feiler learned of Rosenwald Schools. He recalls that he immediately went home, researched all that he could find on the topic, and decided that he wanted to create a photographic account of the program. Over the next three and a half years, Feiler drove more than 25,000 miles and photographed 105 schools throughout the South. He not only captured the historic Rosenwald School structures, or, in some cases, their building sites, but also people associated with those schools. He interviewed former students, former teachers, historians and preservationists.

The result is A Better Life for Their Children: Julius Rosenwald, Booker T. Washington, and the 4,978 Schools that Changed America, an award-winning 2021 book of Feiler’s photographs complemented by informative essays, and a companion traveling exhibition that has been touring museums and cultural institutions in the Southeastern United States for the last two years. It comes to the Tennessee State Museum on February 24, 2023 and runs through May 21, 2023.

“The public response to the exhibition has been amazing,” says Feiler whose book, now in its third printing, was named photobook of the year by Prix de la Photographie Paris in 2022. “When the exhibition premiered in 2021 at the National Center for Civil and Human Rights in Atlanta, several of the people featured in the book and their families traveled from afar to see the exhibition. When the work was on view at the Charlotte Museum of History in early 2022, the folks there said it was the best received exhibition that they’d ever had. And at the National Civil Rights Museum at the Lorraine Motel in Memphis, where the exhibition was on view in late 2022, groups of Rosenwald School alumni gathered to view the exhibition and were so excited to have a piece of their story and history being shared with wider audiences.”
The Birth of Rosenwald Schools

The creation of the Rosenwald Fund's school building program grew from a partnership between Booker T. Washington, president and founder of Tuskegee Institute, and Julius Rosenwald, a philanthropist and president of Sears, Roebuck and Company who also sat on the Board of Trustees at Tuskegee. Washington appealed to Rosenwald, whose support for many charitable causes was inspired by his Jewish faith and life experiences, to invest in a new school building program that would help provide improved educational facilities for rural Black students. The central idea focused on creating modern school buildings designed to promote positive learning environments in communities where Black students often lacked access to adequate education facilities. The design of what would come to be known as the Rosenwald School featured large windows, providing light and healthy air circulation. Cloakrooms offered vital storage space, and room dividers could split classrooms into sections or allow them to be opened to create larger community spaces. The exteriors of the structures were kept modest and plain to deflect potential objections. Since Reconstruction, school buildings for Black children had been targets of arson and racial violence.

From 1912 to 1937, the Rosenwald Fund partnered with local Black communities and school officials to build 4,978 schools across 15 southern states. While the Rosenwald Fund's building program did not directly challenge school segregation, it offered opportunities for Black communities to advocate for their children's education and supported their demands for functional school facilities. Today, about 500 structures remain extant, with half having undergone major preservation work.

“Many of these schools were built in the 1910s and 1920s yet many were active schools into the 1960s and even 1970s,” says Feiler. “Many of these schools served multiple generations so the connection between the communities and Julius Rosenwald was lost to history for many of these students. What I’ve been finding is that in reading my book and in seeing the exhibition, families are starting conversations about family history, and many are finding connections to Rosenwald schools they hadn’t known. By far the most emotionally rewarding part of my experience was meeting people who attended these schools, taught in these schools, and are devoting their lives to saving these schools.”
The Rosenwald Fund’s school building program was an early example of both a challenge grant – what we’ve come to commonly call “matching funds” – and a public/private partnership. Facilities for Black children were often overcrowded, in poor repair, and received fewer resources. While Black community members were already paying taxes to fund schools in their areas, they were also asked to make contributions to the building of the Rosenwald schools. This could be in the form of land, cash, labor or materials.

To raise the funds needed to qualify for the grant, they organized fish frys, bake sales and other events. Some farmers sectioned off areas of crops, known as “Rosenwald patches,” to dedicate toward fundraising. Black communities were also tasked with working with school officials. The Rosenwald Fund required that school buildings and properties were publicly owned, and local school officials had to agree to be responsible for the maintenance of the buildings and to contribute the funds to furnish the schools and pay for the teachers’ salaries. Julius Rosenwald donated the matching grant funds, and the amounts for grants were scaled according to the sizes and methods of construction for the proposed schools.
The Museum will follow Feiler’s show with Building a Bright Future: Black Communities and Rosenwald Schools in Tennessee, a new exhibition that focuses on the impact, legacy and preservation of Rosenwald Schools specifically in Tennessee. It will run June 16, 2023 – February 25, 2024.

At the beginning of their partnership, Washington sent Rosenwald images of the students and teachers in and around the first completed schools. Rosenwald was so moved by the photographs and the apparent success of the program that he agreed to make larger contributions to the program. These photographs became a standard practice in the archival records of the schools and continued throughout reorganizations of the Rosenwald Fund’s operations. Feiler was inspired by the role that photography had played in the early and continuing history of the program. He chose a black and white format for his photographs specifically to represent this continued tradition and “bring people into hidden history that they may otherwise not have access to.”

The Tennessee State Museum will host 25 Feiler photographs and accompanying story panels. One of those images is of Frank Brinkley and Charles Brinkley, Sr., alumni of the Rosenwald School in Cairo, Tennessee.

“Frank and Charles were two of the exceptional people I met along the way,” says Feiler. “They were both Rosenwald School alums; they both went to college and graduate school; they both became educators; and both were involved in the preservation of the Cairo School. In my research, I spent hours online finding surviving schools, stories associated with these schools, and people associated with these schools. I found a photograph of the Cairo School while it was undergoing renovation and there was a sign out front with the names of the architect, the contractor, and other organizations involved in restoring the Cairo School. I called the architect and he said to me, “You need to meet Frank Brinkley!”

Feiler will sit down with Frank and Charles Brinkley as part of the Museum’s “In Conversation” series on Saturday, February 25 at 2 p.m. in the Museum’s Digital Learning Center. A Better Life for Their Children: Julius Rosenwald, Booker T. Washington, and the 4,978 Schools that Changed America runs February 24 – May 21, 2023.

Debbie Shaw
Curator of Archaeology
Scopes Evolution Trial Archive, 1920s

The Museum recently acquired an exceptional photographic archive related to the Scopes Evolution Trial, more commonly known as the Scopes "Monkey" Trial. Formally "The State of Tennessee v. John Thomas Scopes," the trial took place in Dayton, Tennessee, as a challenge to the Butler Act, a law that made the teaching of human evolution in Tennessee schools illegal.

The event was dubbed “the trial of the century” at the time, with famous attorney Clarence Darrow representing Tennessee school teacher John Scopes. Attorney and three-time presidential candidate William Jennings Bryan argued the prosecution for the State of Tennessee.

The trial occurred from July 10 - 21, 1925, with Scopes being found guilty and fined $100. The decision was eventually appealed to the Tennessee Supreme Court, with the verdict overturned on a technicality. The trial was a massive nationally publicized event with reporters and journalists pouring into Dayton from all over the country. The courtroom proceedings were broadcast over the radio, the first time an American trial was broadcast live as it happened.

The archive was compiled by Lawrence Puckett, a retired judge, over many years and is a great addition to the Museum's collection related to the Scopes Evolution Trial. Arranged chronologically, the collection covers the entire period of the trial and includes photographs depicting the major figures on both sides before and after the trial. The 100th anniversary of Tennessee v. Scopes will be commemorated in 2025.
NEW ACQUISITIONS

Silver Spoon, about 1800
With this recent donation, the Museum gained one of the oldest pieces of Tennessee-made silver in its collection. Family documents note that this spoon was made in Nashville around 1800 for William and Rhoda Byrne, who lived in Roane and Putnam Counties in the early nineteenth century. While its maker is unidentified, the spoon is engraved with the Byrnes's initials “R / WB.” This spoon also has a connection to an important period in American religious history through the Byrnes' granddaughter, Rhoda Jared Young (1820-1899). Young and her husband converted to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in 1842. Her memoirs recount their difficult journey of leaving Tennessee for Utah along the Mormon Trail in the 1850s.

Grand Central Station by Red Grooms, about 1990
The Tennessee State Museum maintains one of the largest collections of work by Red Grooms thanks to the continued generosity of Walter Knestrick, a personal friend of the artist. Mr. Knestrick’s most recent gift included this large multimedia work depicting Grand Central Station in New York City. Constructed primarily from wood, the three-dimensional scene captures the motion and vibrancy of urban life. Originally from Nashville, Grooms spent time in New York where he found inspiration in the city’s streetscapes. His prolific career has been widely celebrated in major museums across the country. When the Museum reopened in 2018 in its current location, one of its first temporary exhibitions was a Red Grooms retrospective. Grand Central Station can be enjoyed at the Nashville Public Library on Church Street, where it is displayed on a long-term loan from the Museum.

Image Courtesy of Jacob Fine Art.

Fiddle Owned by Gene “Pappy” Merritts, 1925
This violin belonged to western-style fiddler Gene “Pappy” Merritts, who played it as his primary instrument during his long career in Nashville. Merritts customized the instrument by adding charismatic carvings, reddening the finish and applying mother of pearl ornamentation. The result is a stylish fiddle with personality suited for a Nashville stage. Originally from Pennsylvania, Merritts moved to Tennessee in 1961. He performed with country greats including Bill Monroe, Patsy Cline and Roy Acuff. Merritts starred in Opryland’s Country Music USA show for 24 years and was the long-time fiddler for John England and the Western Swingers, regular performers at Robert’s Western World on Lower Broadway. The fiddle, along with its case, was donated by the family this year after Merritts’ passing at 92.
Jesse Eugene Loudy Collection, 1940s-1980s
The Museum recently acquired a collection related to Jesse Eugene Loudy and his World War II service. Loudy (1922-1984) was born in Johnson City, Tennessee, and graduated from Science Hill High School. Following graduation, Loudy worked for the East Tennessee Light and Power Company and married his high school sweetheart, Evelyn McNeil, in 1941. Loudy was inducted at Fort McPherson outside Atlanta, Georgia, and would eventually end up in the U.S. Army Air Forces in the combat crew section of a B-29 "Superfortress." Loudy was deployed to the Pacific Theater and successfully completed all his missions, logging them on a large map of Japan and mission logbook, both of which are part of the collection. Following the war, he returned to Johnson City, Tennessee, and was employed by the U.S. Postal Service until his death in 1984. In addition to the aforementioned logbook and map, the collection includes photographs of Loudy and articles from various uniforms he wore during his service.

Vice Adm. William Porter Lawrence Collection, 1970s to 2000s
William Porter Lawrence (1930-2005) was born in Nashville, Tennessee, where he attended West End High School before accepting an appointment to the United States Naval Academy. During the Vietnam War, he commanded Fighter Squadron 143 (VF-143) and was shot down on June 28, 1967, while on a bombing mission. Lawrence was held captive by the North Vietnamese at the Hoa Lo Prison in Hanoi from 1967-1973. During his captivity, Lawrence composed "Oh Tennessee, My Tennessee," a poem that was adopted as the official poem of Tennessee after his return. Susan Curley was working in Washington, D.C. during the Vietnam War and participated in the POW/MIA bracelet program, receiving Lawrence's name bracelet. Curley met Lawrence after his return home and exchanged several letters with him before his death. Among the items donated are the original bracelet worn by Curley, a photograph of the two and a personally inscribed copy of the poem.

Margaret Armstrong Letter to Andrew Jackson, 1833
The Museum recently acquired a rare personal letter written to President Andrew Jackson from Margaret Armstrong, dated August 17, 1833. Armstrong visited the Hermitage with several friends while Jackson was away and wrote to thank him and report on her visit. She and her husband, Robert Armstrong, were married by Jackson over the objections of her parents and she viewed Jackson as a surrogate father figure. She viewed Rachel, who was deceased by the time of Margaret's visit, in motherly terms. She was "much pleased with their visit to the Hermitage," she wrote. "I took the liberty of showing them the garden and the spot where my ever-lamented friend is buried, oh what a melancholy day that was to me. There hangs the likeness of one that I owe, with yourself, all the earthly happiness that I ever have been permitted to enjoy in this world."

Medical Chair, Used by Mary Dunbar Gray of Stewart County, 1880s
Mary Dunbar Gray was born in 1809 in Stewart County, where she lived until her death in 1894. She was married and widowed twice and had four children. For much of her life, Gray lived on family farms, except for when she lived in Dover where her second husband owned a livery stable and hotel. Gray experienced health issues and was living with her daughter Martha Thomas and her family by 1880. This chair, which features small wheels and adjusts to recline, was likely purchased by Thomas for her mother. This artifact, which Gray used for about 10 years, embodies the caring relationship between Gray and her daughter.

Gift of the Family of Thomas Elton and Mary Bayer Weaks.
EXHIBITION ROTATION

Two areas of our permanent galleries have exciting new updates. The *First Peoples* exhibition features a new display focused on the Southeastern Indian Salt Works at Sulphur Dell. Museum staff worked with Native American stakeholders to develop this display.

In the Mississippian period, salt was an important trade item. The original site of the Sulphur Dell ballpark in Nashville, now home to the Nashville Sounds minor league baseball team stadium, was the location of a major salt works. About 800 years ago, a network of trails connected Mississippian farming villages throughout the Southeast to this destination.

Southeastern Indians used salt pans – large, thick, shell-tempered ceramic containers – to process salt. These pans often had fabric-impressed designs on their exteriors. This exhibit includes pieces of salt pans used at this site that bear impressions of different kinds of fabrics.

In the *Forging a Nation* gallery, Museum staff have rotated items related to First Lady Sarah Childress Polk. The Museum was fortunate to have a dress of Mrs. Polk’s on loan from the President James K. Polk Home and Museum in Columbia, Tennessee. The dress has been returned, and Museum staff reimagined this exhibit.

Additions to this case include George Dury’s portrait of Sarah Childress Polk, painted about 1850. The State Museum’s Dury portrait is very similar to another portrait of Sarah Polk in the White House Collection. Also added to the case is a saucer from the porcelain dining set the family owned and used in their home, Polk Place, in downtown Nashville. It is accompanied by a historic photograph of Polk Place, which no longer exists. This case continues to feature a pitcher that Lee-Sic, a Cherokee, presented to Sarah Childress Polk during her term as First Lady of the United States in 1845.

*Mississippian Salt Production*, by Carlyle Urello, 2015.101

*Serving Saucer*, used at Polk Place, about 1850, 4.13

*Sarah Childress Polk*, by George Dury, 1883, 73.108
LECTURES
Available now at TNMuseum.org/Videos:

Lunch and Learn: Tennessee Folklife with Bob Fulcher and Jay Orr
Learn more about the Tennessee State Parks Folklife Project, including folk arts connected with African American tradition bearers and their communities, in this presentation by Bob Fulcher and folklorist and country music historian Jay Orr.

African American Experiences in the Smokies
Antoine Fletcher of the National Park Service discusses the work of The African American Experiences in the Smokies Project (AAESP), which focuses on the overlooked history of African Americans in the Smokies and Southern Appalachia.

Exploring the Archives and Collection at Great Smoky Mountains National Park
Mike Aday, librarian and archivist at Great Smoky Mountains National Park, discusses the Park’s archive and collection, and how you can access it for research.

Music of Appalachia: The Sounds of the Smokies
Mark Freed, instructor of Appalachian Music at Appalachian State University, presents a lecture on Appalachian music, with a particular ear towards the sounds of Tennessee.

Appalachia’s Coal-Mining Legacy: Reforesting for the Future
Cliff Drouet of the Appalachian Regional Reforestation Initiative and Catherine Price with the Cumberland River Compact discuss the legacy of the coal industry in Appalachia, and what the future of reforestation holds for this region.

Jim Hoobler: This Used To Be Nashville
Author and retired Tennessee State Museum curator James Hoobler presents a special lecture to celebrate the release of his latest book, This Used To Be Nashville. The book explores the history of buildings in what is now one of the country’s most visited tourist destinations.

THOUSANDS OF STORIES BLOG
Available now at TNMuseum.org/Stories:

• Artifacts from Inauguration Days Gone By
• Curator’s Corner - Memphis, TN: Martin Luther King’s Last Campaign
• The Most Popular Museum Blog Posts of 2022
• Exploring the Complexity of Family in Tara Stingfellow’s Memphis
• A Hallowed Rememberance: The Tennessee War Memorial Building

JUNIOR CURATORS
The Junior Curators blog introduces young readers to Tennessee history, while incorporating the state’s social studies standards through vocabulary and critical thinking exercises. Recent posts at TNMuseum.org/junior-curators:

• Five Restaurants You Didn’t Know Started in Tennessee
• Who Are the Fisk Jubilee Singers?
• What Do the Three Stars on the Tennessee State Flag Mean? The Story of Tennessee Geography
• Tennessee Legends: The Bell Witch
• Four Tennesseans That DIDN’T Become President
• Ida B. Wells-Barnett - The First of Many: Journalism
• Spot the Difference: “Weddings in the Big Smokies, Tennessee”
• Video Didn’t Kill This Radio Star
**FEBRUARY**

**IN CONVERSATION:**
ANDREW FEILER, FRANK BRINKLEY, AND CHARLES BRINKLEY, SR.
Saturday, February 25 • 12:00 p.m.
Andrew Feiler will discuss his photography work and the exhibition, A Better Life for Their Children: Julius Rosenwald, Booker T. Washington, and the 4,978 Schools that Changed America. Afterwards, he will join brothers Frank and Charles Brinkley, Sr. in conversation about their experiences as Rosenwald school students and preservationists.

**MARCH**

**TN WRITERS | TN STORIES: DR. MARY ELLEN PETHEL: TITLE IX, PAT SUMMITT, AND TENNESSEE’S TRAILBLAZERS: 50 YEARS, 50 STORIES**
Saturday, March 11 • 10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m
In Title IX, Pat Summitt, and Tennessee’s Trailblazers, Mary Ellen Pethel introduces readers to past and present pioneers—each instrumental to the success of women’s athletics across the state of Tennessee and the nation. Through vibrant profiles, Pethel celebrates the lives and careers of household names like Pat Summitt and Candace Parker, as well as equally important forerunners such as Ann Furrow and Teresa Phillips.

**NASHVILLE OPERA ON TOUR: LITTLE RED’S MOST UNUSUAL DAY**
Saturday, March 25 • 2:00 p.m.
The Nashville Opera is on tour with a free performance for children and Museum guests in the Grand Hall. Picture our hero, Forest Ranger Dudley, singing about caring for his beloved woodsy environment to the tune of The Barber of Seville’s famous “Largo al factotum!” Little Red’s Most Unusual Day by John Davies is a family-friendly 40-minute production sung in English and set to music from operas by Rossini and Offenbach. Nashville Opera ON TOUR will bring full sets and costumes. The cast consists of four professional opera singers and a pianist, all members of Nashville Opera’s Mary Ragland Emerging Artist Program.

This program aligns with Tennessee Curriculum Standards for Music, Theatre, Dance, Visual Arts, Reading, Writing, History, Social Studies, Math and Sciences.

**APRIL**

**TN WRITERS | TN STORIES: YASMIN ALI: WALK THROUGH FIRE: THE TRAIN DISASTER THAT CHANGED AMERICA**
Saturday, April 8 • 10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m
Yasmine Ali’s Walk Through Fire reconstructs the events of a horrific explosion in 1978 that can still be felt today. The explosion of a tank car full of liquid propane devastated the small town of Waverly, Tennessee, shocked the nation, and led to the creation of transformational laws and regulations which have since been adopted by countries around the world as a template for disaster management.

**STORYTIME**

NOW WITH ASL INTERPRETATION EVERY THIRD SATURDAY

Storytime in the Children’s Gallery takes place every Tuesday and Saturday at 10:30 a.m. On every third Saturday of the month, Storytime will feature an American Sign Language (ASL) Interpreter from our community partner, BRIDGES For the Deaf and Hard of Hearing.
The Museum hosted another spook-tacular Haunted Museum Storytelling Festival event in October. Over 1,200 people came out to enjoy tales from Tennessee’s past as told by our guest storytellers. The Nashville Puppet Truck performed “Hansel and Gretel” in the Museum’s Digital Learning Center, while stories like Spearfinger and the Bell Witch were told from our stage in the Grand Hall and in the galleries. Many of the stories included ASL interpretation. This free family program is always a hit with our visitors.

Visitors donned their holiday sweaters for the Carols, Cookies and Crafts event in December. In the Museum’s Grand Hall, local groups such as Metro Nashville Chorus and the Grand Old Dulcimer Club performed live holiday hits like “Winter Wonderland,” “Jingle Bells” and “We Wish You a Merry Christmas.” Guests were able to enjoy hot chocolate, crafts in the Museum’s education suite, and of course, cookies.

From the courthouse to the Ernest Tubb Record Shop and the Arcade, local historian, author and retired Tennessee State Museum curator Jim Hoobler took December’s lecture attendees on a journey through the history of Nashville’s historic buildings and locations. These stories can be found in his latest book, This Used To Be Nashville, which Hoobler also signed for visitors to the program and are currently available in the Museum Store. Catch the replay of this presentation at TNMuseum.org/Videos.
25
Number of photographs by Andrew Feiler in our new exhibition: *A Better Life for Their Children* ... See our cover story.

1,000/17,012
Cost in dollars in 1925 per day for telephone lines for WGN Radio to broadcast the Scopes trial— the first such broadcast of its kind. / Cost in 2023 adjusted for inflation. See page 5

750,000
Estimated number of visitors who go through Grand Central Terminal in New York City each day. See page 6

24
Number of years that fiddler Gene “Pappy” Merritts performed in the Country Music USA show at Opryland USA theme park. The park was opened from 1972-1997. See page 6
Estimated number in millions of POW/MIA bracelets distributed from 1970-76 by VIVA (Voices In Vital America), the Los Angeles based student organization that produced and distributed the bracelets during the Vietnam War. See page 7

Estimated number of years ago that a “salt town” stood on the land currently occupied by the Nashville Sounds baseball stadium, previously known as Sulphur Dell, in Nashville. A network of trails connected surrounding Mississippian farming villages. See page 8

Estimated number of attendees to the Museum’s Haunted Museum Storytelling Festival in the fall of 2022. See page 11

Number of impressions of Museum posts in 2022 across all its social media channels.
VIRTUAL TENNESSEE HISTORY

COURSE REVIEW

Tennessee teachers are invited to join us online each Monday in May for our annual review of the Tennessee History Course state standards, broadcasted live from the Tennessee State Museum. Museum educators will use the exhibits and artifacts in our exhibitions to walk you and your students through the Tennessee history they have studied throughout the school year, standard by standard. Each 30-minute presentation is dedicated to a specific period of Tennessee history and is followed by an optional 15-minute Q and A session. The programs are offered multiple times each day to best fit into your schedule.

Programs will start at 9:00, 10:00, 1:00, and 2:00 (CST) each Monday.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Content</th>
<th>Standards</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>May 1</td>
<td>Tennessee Prior to Statehood</td>
<td>5.26-5.34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 8</td>
<td>Statehood and Early Tennessee</td>
<td>5.35-5.40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 15</td>
<td>Tennessee in the Civil War Era</td>
<td>5.41-5.46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 22</td>
<td>Tennessee in the 20th Century</td>
<td>5.47-5.54</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Complete Registration by visiting TNMuseum.org/professional-development or scanning the QR Code
The Tennessee State Museum recently partnered with Robert Churchwell Museum Magnet Elementary School in Nashville to install an art exhibition at the school. Robert Churchwell has its own museum gallery that provides students access to high quality museum exhibits to engage with and teach creative ways to tell stories. In this exhibit, State Museum curators and educators teamed up with the school’s administrators and teachers to install *Art is All Around!*

The Museum selected art pieces from Tennessee artists that use repurposed materials from everyday life. Pieces on display included a fabric calendar made of burlap by Margaret Gregg of Knox County; a sculpture of a banjo player made from coat hangers by Vannoy Streeter of Bedford County; and portraits of Adam and Eve made with paper, glue, and tin foil by George Hunt of Shelby County. By seeing how these artists used everything from masking tape to make sculptures, or glitter and paint to make collages, students learned that they too could create inspirational art from inexpensive or even free items.

The exhibition opened on November 19 with tours led by Museum Curator Julia Doyle and Museum Outreach Education Coordinator Dali Atchley. Students were encouraged to find their favorite pieces and discover what household items they could find in the artwork. “Kids were surprised to learn how simple art can be by seeing pieces made from items they could find in their own homes,” said Atchley. “They couldn’t believe you could make art from matches, tape and fingernail polish.”

Students also had art in the exhibition. Robert Churchwell art teacher, Ms. Elizabeth Wooten, led her students in creating a class artwork with repurposed materials. When they were finished, Museum staff returned to the school and installed it alongside the other artwork. *Art is All Around!* was open to Robert Churchwell students and families and ran through the end of January 2023.
Staff Book Picks

The Museum Store features an array of books both by Tennessee authors and about the state’s history. Many complement our permanent and temporary exhibitions and Museum programs. We asked Museum staff for their book recommendations from those found in the shop. Here are some of their picks.

Lost in Transition: Removing, Resettling, and Renewing Appalachia
Edited by Aaron D. Purcell (University of Tennessee Press)
Purcell’s book examines communities altered by change. This series of case studies speaks to the importance of place and the displacement of people, whether due to the creation of the Great Smoky Mountain National Park or the building of hydroelectric dams such as Norris Dam. Lost in Transition gives voice to individuals and families affected by development. – Ashley Howell, Executive Director

Bicycling the Natchez Trace
by Glen Wanner (Pennywell Press)
I have been bicycling the Natchez Trace Parkway for almost 15 years. In addition to being drawn to the bucolic views and rolling hills, I’m attracted to the immense history along the Parkway. Wanner’s book is the perfect companion should you, like me, be interested in both cycling and heritage tourism. It’s also aspirational. One of these days, I’m going to bike the entire 444 miles of the Parkway down to Mississippi. But not before I do my research with Wanner. – Joe Pagetta, Director of Communications

A Band of Angels
by Deborah Hopkinson (Aladdin Paperbacks)
My favorite read is this children’s book about the Fisk Jubilee Singers. Hopkinson tells us how the group overcame tremendous obstacles and worked to keep the school and program going. It’s a beautiful story, which shows the tremendous treasure we have a few blocks away from our Tennessee State Museum: the historic Fisk University. – Whitney Williams, Museum Store Manager

Blood and Treasure: Daniel Boone and the Fight for America’s First Frontier
by Bob Drury & Tom Clavin (St. Martin’s Press)
This new popular history about the life of Daniel Boone is a great, fast-paced read. It covers all the most important aspects of Boone’s life, especially his deeds and accomplishments in Kentucky and Tennessee. A fascinating person who ranged very far from the edges of European civilization, Boone truly captures the independence and self-sufficiency of early settlers and explorers in the region. – Richard White, Chief Curator

Herstory: 50 Women and Girls Who Shook up the World
by Katherine Halligan (Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers)
I bought this book for my niece, but first read through it myself. It’s so impressive to see each of these women and girls portrayed through different time periods, and with such diversity. From the well-known to those we may discover through the book, their stories are all quite unique. Each, in their own way, changed the world. What a great gift for any girl, any age, to be inspired and possibly see themselves in some way from each of these women. – Lee Curtis, Communications and Legislative Liaison
CHILDREN’S CORNER

New Farmers’ Market in the Children’s Gallery
Farmers’ markets play an important role in Tennessee’s culture and economy. Tennesseans statewide sell their fruits, veggies and baked goods at over 130 farmers’ markets across the state’s three grand divisions. In the Children’s Gallery, little ones are encouraged to use their imagination to run their own market or do some shopping. They can practice picking fruits, digging up vegetables and even ringing up their haul on a cash register! Grab a basket and explore this new addition to our Children’s Gallery.

ON THE COVER

PHOTO OF FRANK BRINKLEY AND CHARLES BRINKLEY, SR.

Photograph by Andrew Feiler of brothers Frank Brinkley and Charles Brinkley, Sr., educators and former students of the Rosenwald School in Cairo, Tennessee. Image by Andrew Feiler.

Unless otherwise indicated, all photographs that appear in the newsletter are taken by Museum staff and Tennessee State photographers and are protected by copyright. Any use of the images without permission from Museum staff is not permitted.
When you donate to the Tennessee State Museum, you’re helping make history come alive for thousands of children and adults throughout the state. From our teacher workshops to our traveling trunks initiative to our in-person and online offerings, your support helps us offer the quality programming you’ve come to expect from your State Museum. Consider donating today at TNMuseum.org/Donate.

Support Your State Museum

Winners of the recent State of Tennessee Art Review and Showcase (STARS): 2022-2023 Statewide Elementary Exhibition. Photo courtesy of TAEA.