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OHIO VALLEY

history conference

PROGRAM GUIDE

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS FOR THE OHIO VALLEY HISTORICAL CONFERENCE 2026

Conference Reception: October 22, 2026

Home2Suites, 5 - 7p.m.

Open to Conference Attendees.

Previously registered participants can pick up their
registration packets at the reception.

DAY 1: OCTOBER 23, 2026

Registration: 8 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Registration will occur on the first floor of Henderson Hall. The Registration table will remain open until 3 p.m. that day for later registration and materials pickup. Morning refreshments will be available at that time.

A coffee refresh will occur during that day as well.

Session 1: 8:30 - 10 a.m.

1A. "Europe and New Historical Narratives"

Moderator: Elizabeth Propes, Tennessee Tech University
Henderson 108

"The Origin of the Final Solution: The Functionalist Interpretation and the Twisted Road to Auschwitz," David R. Snyder, Austin Peay State University

"Voices of Liberation: Oral Histories and the Liberation of Concentration Camps," Thomas Hudson, Middle Tennessee State University

"Industrialization and Cultural Propaganda During the Stalin Years,"
Brittany Shannon Hardy, East Tennessee State University

1B. "Turning Points in Postwar American Politics: Identity, the New Right, and the Perils of Incumbency"

Moderator: Renee LaFleur, University of Tennessee, Martin
Henderson 114

"The Tiles Missing from Amreeka's Mosaic: Women Writers, Arab American Identity, and Injustice in Contemporary America," Richard Garlitz, University of Tennessee at Martin

"The 1974 Kentucky Democratic Primary: Frank Stubblefield, Carroll Hubbard and the Challenges of Incumbency," Brian Clardy, Murray State University

"David Scondras, Mike Dukakis, and Greek American Identity Politics in Reagan's America," Olga Koulisis, Murray State University

"Both Sides of the Street: Happy Chandler, George Wallace, and the 1968 Presidential Election," Christa Kieffer, Cottey College

1C. "USCT and Contraband Camps in Clarksville, Tennessee: Freedom, Valor and Community Building"

Moderator: Minoa D. Uffelman, Austin Peay State University
Henderson 205

"Clarksville's 16th and 101st United States Colored Troops," Phyllis Smith, Mt. Olive Cemetery Historical Preservation Society Historian

"Buying Freedom's Ground: Black Landownership and Community Formation in Postwar Montgomery County," David Britton, Tennessee Historical Commission

Break: 10 - 10:15 a.m.

Session 2: 10:15 - 11:45 a.m.

2A. "Documenting Defeat: Constitutional, Economic, and Cultural Challenges in the Wartime Confederacy"

Moderator: Kent Dollar, Tennessee Tech University
Henderson 205

“Rebel Rousers: Drunkenness, Rumors of Drunkenness, and the Confederate War Effort,” Timothy Wesley, Austin Peay State University

“Internal and External Pressures on Confederate Taxation Policies,” Alexander Copenhaver-Pounds, Austin Peay State University

“The Confederate Constitution: Blueprint for an Illiberal Republic,” Greg Zieren, Austin Peay State University

2B. “Unsung Heroes of the 1930s and 1940s”

Moderator: Douglas Hermann, Independent Scholar
Henderson 114

“Wonder Women of the 1930s and 1940s,” Rhonda L. Smith-Daugherty, The Garfield Historical Institute of Research

“One of Patton’s Best: The Early Career of Brigadier General Albin F. Irzyk, U.S. Army, 1939 – 1943,” Leo J. Daugherty III, U.S. Army Cadet Command and Fort Knox, KY.

“Edith Stein: Death of a Jewish Nun in Auschwitz,” Megan Burnett, Bellarmine University, Louisville, KY

Lunch Break: 11:45 a.m. - 1:15 p.m.

Lunch on your own. There is a list of restaurants in your folder.

Session 3: 1:15 - 2:45 p.m.

3A. “Echoes of Tennessee’s Past”

Moderator: Laura Elizabeth Smith, Tennessee Tech University
Henderson 205

“A Perfect Hell: The Civil War in the Upper Cumberland,” Kent Dollar, Tennessee Tech University

"Road to Resistance: Indigenous People in Early Tennessee," Troy Smith, Tennessee Tech University

"Tennessee and the War for Independence," Philip Davis, Tennessee Tech University

3B. "Progressive-Era Clubwomen as Feminists,"

Moderator: Ben St. Angelo, Tennessee Tech University
Henderson 114

"Constructing Citizenship Through Education, Associations, and Service, Toward Suffrage: Agency Engendered in Women Across Tennessee by Their Club Work," Mary Evins, Middle Tennessee State University

"The Pervasive Activism and Success of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union Across Tennessee," Carole Bucy, Volunteer State Community College

"The Middle Ground of Elite Women's Study Clubs of Northwest Tennessee," Renee LaFleur, University of Tennessee, Martin

"Tennessee United Daughters of the Confederacy's Version of Progressivism," Minoa Uffelman, Austin Peay State University

3C. Workshop: "Ideas for a New Generation of World History Students"

Moderator and Leader: Kathryn Reetzke, Western Kentucky University
Henderson 108

This workshop will include individual and group activities, demonstrations, and a presentation of new technologies to introduce in the general education History classroom. Many of these can also be incorporated into upper-level courses for historiographical purposes to examine the way history is being introduced on a large scale through social media. Many of these technologies will feel familiar to students, yet they may not be aware of the implications or algorithms behind the social media and search engines they use to find information.

Break: 2:45 - 3 p.m.

Session 4: 3:15 - 4:15 p.m.

4A. “Debating the Future of the Ohio Valley Historical Conference”

Moderators: E. Allen Driggers and Elizabeth Propes, Tennessee Tech University
Henderson 205

All participants are encouraged to come and discuss the future of the Ohio Valley Historical Conference.

Banquet: 5 - 8 p.m.

Dinner will be served at the Ashraf Islam Building on campus with the keynote address of the conference coming after dinner.

Keynote Address: “Latent Images: Modern China, the United States, and Global Encounters in Lost Photographs and Film,” Joseph W. Ho, University of Michigan

Speaker Bio: Joseph W. Ho is a historian of modern East Asia, Sino-US encounters, and transnational visual culture and media. He is the co-editor of “War and Occupation in China: The Letters of an American Missionary from Hangzhou”, 1937–1938 (Lehigh University Press, 2017), co-author of “Time Exposures: Catholic Photography and the Evolution of Modern China” (Hong Kong University Press, 2026) and author of “Developing Mission: Photography, Filmmaking, and American Missionaries in Modern China” (Cornell University Press, 2022).

DAY 2: OCTOBER 24, 2026

Registration: 8 -9 a.m.

Registration will occur at Henderson Hall. Morning refreshments will be available at that time. A coffee refresh will occur during that day as well.

Session 5: 8:30 - 10:00 a.m.

5A. "New Narratives in the Civil War and Agricultural History"

Moderator: Kent Dollar, Tennessee Tech University

Henderson 205

"A Cultural Historian Confronts the Sphinx: Clement Eaton's Jefferson Davis," Jim Humphreys, Murray State University

"The Confederate Widow: A Living Emblem," Victoria Watts, Austin Peay State University

"The Effectiveness of Cavalry in the American Civil War, Western Theater of Operations," Tony R Malone Jr, Rossview High School

"Reluctant Riders: Depictions of the Black Patch Tobacco War in Media," Mathew Taylor, Western Kentucky University

5B. "Maneuvering among Cultures as Political Strategy"

Moderator: Elizabeth Propes, Tennessee Tech University

Henderson 114

"Cultural Change as a Survival Strategy – the Árpáds" Cameron Sutt, Austin Peay State University

"Embodiment of Virtue: Theoderic's Relationship to the Western Roman Elite," Shawn L. Sims, Austin Peay State University

"Institutional Pluralism as a Strategy of Chinese/Mongol Kingship," David Rands, Austin Peay State University

5C. "New Narratives in Gender History"

Moderator: Stephanie K. Lawton, University of the Cumberlands
Henderson 108

"The 'Beauty' of Education Reporting: Bette Orsini and the Contrast Between Sexist Promotion and Outstanding Service Journalism," Melony Shemberger, Murray State University

"Women's Rights Maverick: Julieta Lanteri," Greg Hammond, Austin Peay State University

Session 6: 10:15 - 11:45 a.m.

6A. "New Narratives in African American History and Abolitionism"

Moderator: Troy Smith, Tennessee Tech University
Henderson 205

"Political Abolitionists and an Antislavery U.S. Constitution," Kevin Tanner, Austin Peay State University

"African American Education at Camp Nelson, 1864-1877," Lucas Somers, Lindsey Wilson University

"Aged Leaders of the Underground Railroad in the Ohio River Valley Region," Anna Henderson, Northern Illinois University

"The Exoduster Movement, Garveyism, and the Ideology of Territorial Black Nationalism," Roland Amoh, Western Illinois University

6B. "Narratives Far Beyond the OVC"

Moderator: Jeffrey Roberts, Tennessee Tech University
Henderson 108

"Athens after the Persian War," George Pesely, Austin Peay State University

"The Anglo-American Convention of 1815," Michael S. Fitzgerald, Youngstown State University-Steubenville

"Deliver Us from Evil: The Religious Nature of the Pro-Slavery Apologists and Abolitionists," Shane Tanner, Murray State University

"The Exodus: Of Military Analysis," Jim Kennedy, Independent Scholar

6C. "Local Histories and Beyond"

Moderator: Stephanie K. Lawton, University of the Cumberlands
Henderson 114

"The French Connection(s): St. Mary's College of Kentucky," Christopher Beckham, Morehead State University

"Passing the Torch: Tennessee Clubwomen and Education and Literacy Philanthropies in the Early Twentieth Century," Mickie Harris, Independent Scholar

6D. "Preservation Politics: Nashville Area Historic House Museums"

Moderator: E. Allen Driggers, Tennessee Tech University
Henderson 214

"Perspectives on Preservation," Lindsey Fisher-Hunt, Middle Tennessee State University

"Perspectives on Preservation," Cate Lia Braaten, Austin Peay State University

Conference Concludes

On behalf of the Tennessee Tech University Department of History and co-chairs of the OVC, we thank you for participating in the conference. We would also like to thank the College of Arts and Science Dean's Office for helping to sponsor the conference.

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Thank You

For participating in the 2026 Ohio Valley History Conference

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