

LOCAL

UTC Library Special Collections receives grant to document Chattanooga's labor history



Photograph of two employees using machines in a factory to pour liquid into casts. This is likely at Wheland Foundry, located at South Broad and 28th Street. The back of the photo bears a stamp for Roy Tuley Studio in Chattanooga. Courtesy of the Chattanooga Public Library and University of Tennessee at Chattanooga Special Collections.

The University of Tennessee at Chattanooga Library's Special Collections department has secured a grant to digitize documents and photographs detailing the history of labor and industry in Chattanooga.

The \$3,630 grant awarded by the Tennessee Historic Records Advisory Board with funds provided by the National Historic Publications and Records Commission provides for Special Collections to hire a student assistant during the spring 2023 semester to scan and write metadata for materials in the library's possession.

Director of Special Collections Carolyn Runyon and Manuscripts Archivist Erin Ryan wrote the grant application.

"There is a widespread interest in labor history today among researchers," said Ryan,

the grant's principal investigator. "In line with that trend, we receive inquiries in Special Collections for help with projects related to labor in Chattanooga. Right now, the bulk of our holdings in that area have not been digitized, which limits the reach of how many people can find and use them.

"The funding we have received for this project will allow us to create dedicated digital collections related to labor and industry in our area and to make these collections freely available on our website where global audiences can discover them."

During the grant-funded project, Special Collections will digitize more than 200 photographs and approximately 134 pages of materials, booklets and correspondence documenting early Chattanooga manufacturing

companies.

Ryan noted that Chattanooga became an industrial center in the South after the Civil War and was known as the "Dynamo of Dixie." The city attracted industries that included iron fabricators and textile mills like Wheland Foundry, which began operating in Chattanooga around 1874;

U.S. Pipe and Foundry, founded in 1887; and Dixie Mercerizing Company, organized in 1919.

"The collections are meant to contribute to primary source material about industrialization, including the roles of Black people and women in foundries and mills," Ryan said, "as well as to inform research about the environmental impact of industrialization."

Wheland Foundry closed in 2002, followed four years later by U.S. Pipe and Foundry's Chattanooga property. Dixie Mercerizing

Company has had numerous name changes and is now known as The Dixie Group.

Some of the images in the digital collections will include: photographs of Black and white laborers working together in the foundry during the Jim Crow era; aerial photographs of the foundry complex, as well as photos of equipment; images of women working in different departments of the textile factory; and a booklet showcasing the Dixie Mercerizing Company's operations and their mill village, Lupton City.

"Special Collections hopes that these materials will be able to augment and inform our existing holdings about urban planning and environmental issues," Ryan said, "and that these materials will be of use not only to scholars but to journalists, students, artists, city planners and many others who may gain from exploring the labor history of Chattanooga."

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Chattanooga Charter School of Excellence Opening High School in Alton Park

(Now Accepting Applications for 2023 – 2024 School Year)

Chattanooga Charter School of Excellence (CCSE) is excited to announce its high school program will be relocating to Alton Park in time to kickoff the 2023-2024 school year! Open House will be held January 11, 2023 from 4:00 – 6:00p.m. The high school building will be open for tours from 1:00 – 3:00p.m. on January 18, January 25, and February 8, 2023.

CCSE High boasts a state-of-the-art STEM lab, a 12,000 square foot regulation size gymnasium, and a 8,400 square foot full performance theater with a seating capacity of over 800. The building has extra-large classrooms; however, our class sizes will be capped at 25 students. Our 110,000 square foot renovated building, located at 201 East 37th Street, is the site of the former Alton Park Junior High School and Franklin Middle School.

With an inaugural class of 9th grade students, Chattanooga Charter School of Excellence High began fall of 2022 with the goal of providing a complement to its existing elementary and middle school programs, creating a seamless K-12 tuition-free educational option for families in Hamilton County. The school will add one grade level each year over the next 3 school years until capacity is reached at 12th grade.

CCSE High School offers innovative programs such as Teachers as Professionals (TAP). The TAP program provides an educational pathway for students interest-

ed in the teaching profession. CCSE High School utilizes the researched based Leader in Me program which is the cornerstone of the school's culture and climate. A strong STEM curriculum which includes flight and drone technology, laser technology and robotics is also offered. We will launch our music program in the 2023-2024 school year; it will include a steel drum band, a vocal program as well as choreography.

Other highlights of Chattanooga Charter School of Excellence High include:

- Sports – basketball, soccer, baseball, volleyball, softball, cheerleading, track & field, cross-country and football (co-op with a local school)
- Free breakfast and lunch provided for FREE to all students
- Bus transportation provided for FREE

As a public charter school, all students living in Hamilton County are eligible to apply on our website at www.chattanooga-charterschool.com, or visit the middle school campus for assistance in the application process. The school is currently accepting applications for rising 9th and 10th grade students as they remain true to their plan of adding one grade each school year until reaching capacity at 12th grade.

For more information, call the school at 423-702-2273, or visit chattanooga-charterschool.com



Broad Street Exit Band: L-R John Cady, Lu Peterson, Cheryl Porter, Bill Hackler, Howard Brown, Gail Lattimore and Vinson Canion

Peterson: from front

After touring with Curtis Mayfield, Luther Peterson chose marriage, kids and Chattanooga over the rigors of touring.

He was preceded in death by his father, Luther Peterson, Sr., aunt, Bobbie Jo Mack, and sister, Lucellan Peterson. He is survived by his wife, Mary Smith

–Peterson, Daughters, Tiffani (Phil) Barfield and Keila Peterson, Sons, Keith and Kaylon Peterson, Mother Sarah Harden, Siblings, Jackie (Gil) Aikens, Barbara Pratt, Elizabeth (Major) Matthews, Susan Stoxsell, Pamela Peterson, Kenneth Harden, Anthony (Earnese) Peterson, Alvin Harden, nine Grandchildren and many cousins, nieces, and nephews.

\$500: from front

First Program.

Households with a case in the program as of Dec. 1, 2022, will receive the one-time additional payment on their existing Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) cards. This one-time payment will be available beginning Dec. 1.

The \$500 bonus will provide extra support for nearly 24,000 children in participating Families First households ahead of the holiday season.

"We serve some of the most economically vulnerable families and children through the Families First program and recognize the challenges they're facing," Commissioner Carter said. "Keeping up with the demands of the holiday season can introduce additional hurdles in caring for children, such as accommodating school breaks, providing extra meals, and so much more. This one-time boost in financial assistance is intended to help Families First participants overcome these temporary hurdles, positioning them to start the year off strong."

Carter was appointed to serve as a member of Gov. Bill Lee's Cabinet as the commissioner of TDHS in January 2021. He leads the state's second-largest agency with an operating budget of more than \$3 billion and nearly 4,000 employees working in offices in all 95 counties.

Through more than 17 programs and services, the department partners with Ten-

nesseans to facilitate nutrition programs, employment assistance, vocational training and protective services to enhance their well-being.

In 2015, Commissioner Carter founded the Institute for the Improvement of the Human Condition. At that organization, he worked with state and local safety net agencies to meet the emergency needs of socially and economically vulnerable citizens.

Prior to serving as TDHS commissioner, Carter served on the federal level as director of the Office of Family Assistance and acting director of the Office of Community Services within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. While there, Commissioner Carter led the administration of seven federal programs including the \$16.5 billion Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program.

Families First is Tennessee's TANF program. TANF is a federally funded program that emphasizes "work, family strengthening and personal responsibility to empower families for long-term success." The program helps participants reach this goal by providing temporary cash assistance, transportation, child care assistance, educational support, job training and other support services.

For further information, call the Tennessee Department of Human Services Family Assistance Service Center at 866-311-4287