

Brenda Thacker

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Education

University of Missouri-St. Louis

Master of Arts in History

Graduate Certificates: University Teaching, Public History and Cultural Heritage

Advisor: Dr. Andrew Hurley

Webster University

Bachelor of Arts in Ancient Studies

Research Interests

St. Louis history, public history, digital history, disease and medicine, historical archaeology, material culture

Work Experience

Washington University in St. Louis:

Center on Urban Research & Public Policy—Administrative Assistant 2017-Present

- Managing day-to-day operations of the department
- Updating Urban Studies web site, events calendar, and program documentation
- Representing the Center at campus events

Washington University in St. Louis: The Divided City—Research Assistant

2016-Present

- Archival research on the history of St. Louis' LGBTQ community, 1945-1992
- Compiling addresses and other data in spreadsheets for GIS mapping
- Developing and writing theme narratives for online publication
- Digitizing written primary sources and images

St. Louis Public Library—Public Technology Assistant

2016-Present

- Providing support for the library's digital technologies
- Educating patrons on the use of library computer systems
- Promoting in-house computer training

Missouri History Museum—Environmental History Researcher

2016-Present

- Compiling the history of objects in the collection in preparation for exhibition.
- Using Mimsy XG to access and update object metadata.
- Writing object reports and interpretive text
- Creating digital history projects for exhibition

University of Missouri-St. Louis Department of History—Teaching Assistant

2013-2016

- Creating and updating course materials.
- Facilitating and monitoring online discussions.
- Offering one-on-one mentoring and tutoring.
- Designing and updating lesson plans.
- Grading assignments and assessments.
- Adapting course materials for online instruction in Blackboard.
- Utilizing online learning tool such as Voicethread, Panopto, and other digital platforms.

Landmarks Association of St. Louis—Research Intern

June-2015

- Interpreting primary sources, including texts, maps, and photographs
- Writing a narrative of the early history of Washington Avenue
- Creating a digital mapping display using Virtual City software

University of Missouri-St. Louis Department of History—Research Assistant

July-2015

- Analyzing aerial photographs and calculating greenspace vs. built environment
- Compiling climate data of St. Louis neighborhoods
- Teaching community members how to record contemporary oral histories using Picstory

Archaeological Fieldwork and Laboratory Experience

- Summer 2016-2017: excavation at Sappington House Historical Site (Crestwood, MO). Volunteer supervisor, programming organizer. Directed by Robin Machiran (Archaeological Research Center of St. Louis).
- Fall 2014: Laboratory Methods in Archaeology (University of Missouri-St. Louis Anthropology Department) development of independent analysis skills in one or more specialty areas such as lithics, ceramics, computer graphics, statistical methods, paleoethnobotany, experimental analysis, and soils.
- Summer 2014: field school at the Daniel Boone Hays homestead (St. Charles, MO), with instruction in surveying, identifying structural remains, mapping features, analyzing artifacts. Directed by Dr. Patti Wright (University of Missouri-St. Louis)
- Spring 2013: test excavations of a mound at Kuhs Farm (St. Louis, MO), and of the Peterson site (near St. Joseph, MO). Directed by Dr. Michael Fuller (St. Louis Community College).
- Spring 2011: excavation Laclede's Landing (St. Louis, MO), and a surface survey in Jefferson County, MO. Directed by Dr. Michael Fuller (St. Louis Community College).
- Spring 2010: excavation at Blake Mound (Chesterfield, MO). Directed by Dr. Michael Fuller (St. Louis Community College).
- Summer 2008: excavation of Mound 34 Cahokia Mounds, including identifying artifacts. Directed by Drs. John and Lucretia Kelly (Washington University and University of Missouri-St. Louis).

Conferences

- Midwest World History Association Conference (University of Central Oklahoma-Oklahoma City, OK-September 2017): "The Clades Variana: The Rebellion in the Texts"
- Midwest World History Association Conference (Metropolitan State University-St. Paul, MN- September 2016): "Mapping Cholera and Westward Migration"
- Missouri Conference on History (University of Missouri-Columbia- March 2016): "Cholera and Its Impact on Westward Expansion along the Oregon Trail"
- A Confluence of Cultures: U.S.-Native American Relations in the 19th Century (Lindenwood University-St. Charles, MO- October 2015): "A Tale of Two Cities: Efforts to Preserve the St. Louis Mound Group"
- Shifting Frontiers XI (University of Iowa-Iowa City- March 2015): "Attitudes towards Disease during the Plague of Justinian"
- Missouri Conference on History (University of Missouri-St. Louis- March 2015): "Quarantine Island and Public Health in Nineteenth-Century St. Louis"

Volunteer Experiences

Mercantile Library of St. Louis

March-2016

- Digitizing collections and preparing them for display.
- Completing MODS metadata forms and object descriptions for digital exhibition.

State Historical Society of Missouri- St. Louis

March-2016

- Digitizing archival collections for online exhibition.
- Running optical character recognition on digitized texts.

Community Activities

- National History Day (2017): Judge for individual papers and web sites
- National History Day (2016): Judge for exhibits, individual papers, and web sites
- National History Day (2015): Site organizer

Publications and Current Research

- Thacker, Brenda. 2017. "Disease and the Revolutionary War." *The Digital Encyclopedia of George Washington*. <http://www.mountvernon.org/digital-encyclopedia/article/disease-in-the-revolutionary-war/>.
- *The Byzantine Empire: A Historical Encyclopedia* (in progress, September 2018)
- *Epidemics and War: The Impact of Disease on Major Conflicts in History* (awaiting publication, April 2018)

Professional Affiliations

- National Council on Public History: Member (2015-Present)
- Phi Alpha Theta: Member (May 2016-present), Psi Psi Chapter President (May-September 2016), Alumna representative and website manager (September 2016-present)
- Archaeological Institute of America: Member (2014-Present), St. Louis Society Secretary (2016-Present)

References

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Dr. Michael Fuller
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David Lobbig
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Dr. Peter Acsay
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