

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 31, 2012

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Teachers Workshop for Smithsonian Exhibit

Cowan, TN – A teachers workshop will be offered on Saturday, February 11 at 9 am for the upcoming Smithsonian Traveling Exhibit that will be on display March 10 through April 21. Everyone is welcome - teachers, principals, and school system administrators. Admission is free, but we do ask you to make reservations, to insure sufficient handouts.

Dr. James Akenson, Professor of Curriculum and Instruction at Tennessee Technological University, will offer a Teachers Workshop connecting "The Way We Worked" exhibit to the K-12 curriculum content and how to link it to classroom teaching.

“The Way We Worked” workshop format will include:

- An overview to exhibition and underlying philosophy.
- An overview of the teaching materials and strategies to be employed throughout the workshop.
- Specific teaching and strategies to prepare students for visiting the exhibit including: Concepts related to American work culture in the K-12 social studies and literature, reading curriculum and the visual arts (photography, painting, etc).
- Directions for behavior and tasks to be performed by students as they visit the exhibit.
- Post The Way We Worked classroom follow-up activities.

Akenson is former Executive Director of the Tennessee Council for the Social Studies, the Coordinator for Opportunities and Information on the Tennessee Council for the Social Studies Board of Directors, is co founder of the International Country Music Conference, and has been active as treasurer and president of the Tennessee Folklore Society.

“The Way We Worked” will be open to the public March 10 through April 21 at the Cowan Center for the Arts, 301 Montgomery Street in Cowan.

For Workshop reservations or to schedule a group tour during school hours, please call Maryann Knowles at 931-967-1560. For more information check the website at www.Smithsonian.CowanRailroadMuseum.org

Smithsonian Exhibit Coming to Cowan March 10 – April 21

Cowan Railroad Museum will explore the professions and the people that sustain American society when it hosts “The Way We Worked,” a Smithsonian Institution traveling exhibition on display March 10 through April 21, 2012 at the Cowan Center for the Arts Theater.

The Way We Worked, adapted from an original exhibition developed by the National Archives, explores how work became such a central element in American culture by tracing the many changes that affected the workforce and work environments over the past 150 years. The exhibition draws from the Archives’ rich collections to tell this compelling story.

The exhibition focuses on why we work and the needs that our jobs fulfill. Our work takes place everywhere – on the land, on the streets of our communities, in offices and factories, in our homes, and even in space. An exploration of the tools and technologies that enabled and assisted workers also reveals how workers sometimes found themselves with better tools, but also with faster, more complex and often more stressful work environments. The diversity of the American workforce is one of its strengths, providing an opportunity to explore how people of all races and ethnicities identified commonalities and worked to knock down barriers in the professional world. And, finally, the exhibition shows how we identify with work – as individuals and as communities. Whether you live in “Steel Town, USA” or wear a uniform each day, work assigns cultural meanings and puts us and our communities in a larger context.

Get the scoop on all the ways you can teach K-12 with specific lessons from the Library of Congress, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and more. Further information and links are available on the website at www.Smithsonian.CowanRailroadMuseum.org.

The exhibit will be open to the public Wednesday through Friday 4 – 7 pm; Saturdays 10 am – 4 pm and Sunday 1 – 4 pm. There will be free lectures and demonstrations every Thursday at 7 pm and Sunday at 4 pm during the exhibit. Admission is free. For group tours during school hours, please call Maryann Knowles at 931-967-1560.

“The Way We Worked” has been made possible to Cowan Railroad Museum by Humanities Tennessee.

“The Way We Worked,” an exhibition created by the National Archives, is part of Museum on Main Street, a collaboration between the Smithsonian Institution and State Humanities Councils nationwide. Support for Museum on Main Street has been provided by the United States Congress.