

# October Grace Kamara (she/her/hers)

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## Education

**MASTER OF ARTS | AUGUST 2022 | MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY**

Public History with a concentration in Museum Management

Thesis advisor: Dr. Carrol Van West

Thesis topic: Black Panther Party and Black Nationalism in Tennessee and their public memory within Tennessee history

**BACHELOR OF ARTS | MAY 2020 | UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT GREENSBORO**

Major: Double Major in History and Sociology

Research Interests: 20th century African American History, black nationalism, gay liberation, black queer liberation, digital history, public history, queer southern history, public memory, and collective memory.

## Experience

### PUBLIC HISTORY WORK

**GRADUATE RESEARCH ASSISTANT | ROBERSON PROJECT ON SLAVERY, RACE, AND RECONCILIATION | MARCH 2021-PRESENT**

As a part of a team, I helped with the creation of a digital community archive website ([blacksewanee.org](http://blacksewanee.org)) and to help promote the project through social media. Our goal is to help Sewanee, University of the South face its white supremacist history by researching the black history of the campus and town and presenting it in a way where it is incorporated into the main narrative of the campus and town. I also help with the planning and implementing of public programming around campus to help promote the project and teach about black history and lost cause narratives on campus. We are also working with the community to create historical markers and a website that memorializes important spaces within their historic black neighborhood. I also am currently helping with the building of a new interinstitutional archive that documents Confederate and lost cause memorials on college campuses in the South.

**GRADUATE RESEARCH ASSISTANT | MTSU TEACHING WITH PRIMARY SOURCES | AUGUST 2020- PRESENT**

I create educational resources for Tennessee social studies teachers that include primary resources from the Library of Congress website. Our goal is to help teachers teach more from primary sources rather than textbooks so that students can have experience working with such documents. I also help with our Civil Rights Fellowship, which is a group of teachers coming together to have dialogue on the best way to teach an inclusive curriculum on the long arc of civil rights. I also help with facilitating our book club.

**EDUCATIONAL RESOURCE INTERN | LGBTQ+ ARCHIVES NETWORK | JUNE 2020-AUGUST 2020**

I created educational resources for their online exhibit on the Upstairs Lounge Fire. Our final product was a discussion guide that could be used by high school and college students to tackle questions about media bias, LGBTQ+ Discrimination, and gaps in LGBTQ+ History in the

classroom. I also got the opportunity to interview LGBTQ+ Religious leaders and write biographical entries on them for the Archives website.

## **UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH**

### **PEOPLE NOT PROPERTY PROJECT | UNCG DIGITAL LIBRARY OF AMERICAN SLAVERY | NOV 2018- OCT 2019**

I examined deeds in Surry County, North Carolina, identified the ones that mentioned slaves, and indexed the deed in a table that included the grantee name(s), grantor name(s), enslaved person(s) name(s), their gender, their race, and age. I also was able to participate and present at the 2019 African American Historical and Genealogical Conference on behalf of this project.

### **UNSUNG HEROES PROJECT | UNCG TRANSFORMING HUMANITIES & UNCG HISTORY DEPARTMENT & UNCG MEDIA STUDIES | AUG 2019-MARCH 2020**

As a part of a team, I interviewed Greensboro, North Carolina residents who participated in civil rights movements in the 60s and 70s (sit-ins, marches, black publications, etc.) to capture their stories that are not widely told in history. Throughout this project I learned more about the interview process and documentary film techniques.

## **OTHER WORK HISTORY**

### **STUDENT COORDINATORS OF PEER EDUCATION | UNCG OFFICE OF INTERCULTURAL ENGAGEMENT | DEC 2018- MAY 2020**

I created and facilitated interactive social justice educational workshops and dialogue about race, gender, class, ability, sexual orientation, privilege, etc. to different campus groups and faculty.

## **Extracurriculars**

### **PRESENTATIONS**

#### **DH UNBOUND (MAY 2022)**

I presented on the Locating Slavery's Legacies Datatbase. I talked about how we built the archive with Omeka S software, the way we created a data dictionary, and I demoed the site so that participants could see the way that we incorporated custom vocabulary and linked open data within the archive.

#### **UNIVERSITIES STUDYING SLAVERY (APRIL 2022)**

I presneted as part of a panel on digital humanities projects being done at the University of the South by the Roberson Project on Slavery, Race, and Reconciliation. I presented on the Locating Slavery's Legacies Database focusing on how we built the archive and demoing the site so that participants could see the way that we incorporated custom vocabulary and linked open data within the archive.

#### **AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORICAL AND GENEALOGICAL CONFERENCE (OCTOBER 2019):**

I presented as part of a panel of undergraduate researchers on the People Not Property project. My fellow student researchers and I talked about our experience with the deeds and the indexing process as well as how this project and database can be helpful to genealogists and their research involving enslaved peoples in North Carolina. (more information on this project can be found in the undergraduate research section)

## Skills

- Omeka S
- Omeka Classic
- Microsoft Suite
- Google Suite