

# Graduate Student Features

## Conference Report: Carrilee Bryan

**Editor’s note: Carrilee Bryan reports on her recent conference experience supported by CENFAD.**



*(Photo Courtesy of Carrilee Bryan)*

**Carrilee Bryan:** In support of my attendance and participation at the 105th National Council for Social Studies (NCSS) Annual Conference, I was fortunate enough to be a recipient of the **CENFAD Conference Travel Grant**. Drawing closely from archival and curricular material from Philadelphia’s Museum of the American Revolution, with

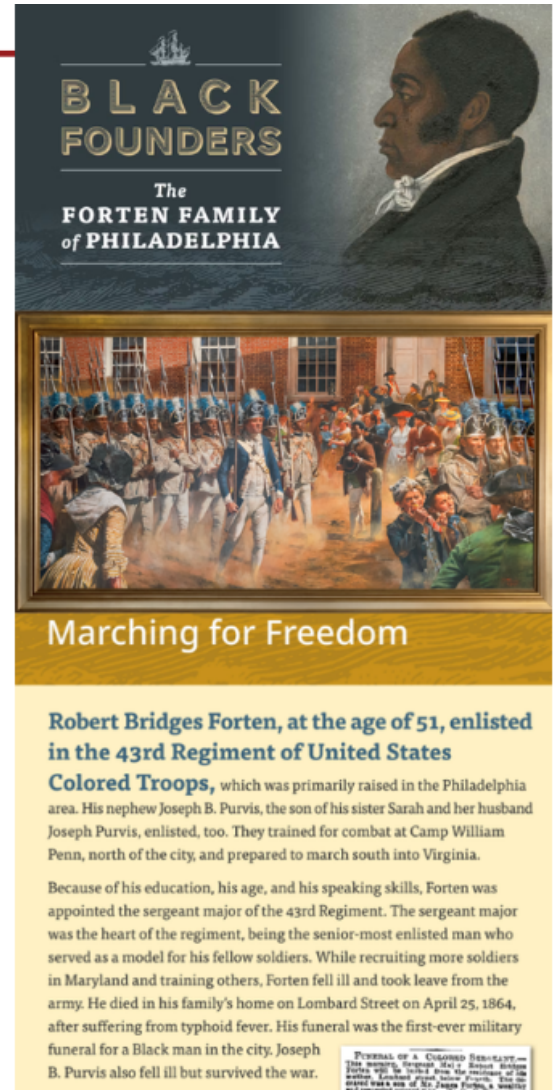
careful attention to the Forten Family (Black Founders) of Philadelphia, this award allowed me to present my research and curricula guide to educators in Washington, DC.

My poster provided an overview of the way the Forten family navigated the American Revolution and cross-racial relationships in Philadelphia to become leaders in the abolition movement in the lead-up to the Civil War and the women’s suffrage movement. Pressing upon the importance of locating and using primary sources, I shared tools and skills I’ve learned as a graduate student, researcher, and educator, to help others learn how to use the histories of early civic organizations, women, children and families, as a lens to teach military and cultural history in art, civic, geography, and social studies classrooms.

Additionally, I presented on the role of publications, such as poems, songs, newspapers, pamphlets, and books, during the American Revolution into the Civil War and women’s suffrage movement to address the ways America and Britain both shaped and preserved the particular narratives surrounding foreign affairs, citizenship, gender roles, and military power during

these times. This experience allowed me to serve as a valuable resource to K-12 educators and practice my public speaking skills. I am extremely grateful for the opportunity and funding to have allowed me to critically engage with the way political ideologies and material culture intersect to (re)shape identity politics on a social and local scale.

**Carrilee Bryan** is a third year PhD student in the Department of History. She graduated from the University of Toronto with a BA in History and English. In Canada, she founded not-for-profit organization, Young, Gifted, and Black, where she organized public exhibits, taught Caribbean and Black Canadian history to participants, and served as a mentor to the community. Her research interests include 19th - 20th Century Histories of: African Americans, Childhood and Youth, US Education, Juvenile Justice, Black Political Thought, Food Studies, and Urban History. Her current research explores the autonomy, political consciousness, and activism of African American youth in Philadelphia during the 60s and 70s, observing the shifts in education reform during this period.



(Photo Courtesy of Carrilee Bryan)