

Austin Schoenkopf  
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### Biographical Statement

Austin Schoenkopf is a second-year master's student at the University of Oklahoma, studying under Dr. Kathleen Brosnan. An easterner-turned-westerner, Austin's background as an archaeologist and national park ranger inform his research in western and environmental history. Austin believes that the best environmental historians remember to occasionally take a walk outside. This paper will be incorporated into his thesis, "Homesteading Vegas: Promotion, Race, and Water in the East Mojave, 1905-1930." Later chapters will explore black utopian communities making use of the Enlarged Homestead Act and violent conflict over water access between cattlemen and homesteaders in today's Mojave National Preserve.