



# OFFICIAL PROGRAM



**SLAVE DWELLING PROJECT CONFERENCE**  
**SEPTEMBER 30 – OCTOBER 2, 2021**

*An exclusive interactive event with over  
30 sessions on changing the narrative*



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# The Slave Dwelling Project Conference 2021

*Changing Narratives in Changing Times*

September 30 - October 2, 2021

All times are EDT

## THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2021

8:50 am – 9:00 am .....	<b>Welcome</b> Joseph McGill
9:00 am.....	<b>KEYNOTE: Above all Else, Tell the Truth: Narrating Hard History, Honestly</b> Hasan Kwame Jeffries
10:30 am – Noon .....	<b>Challenging the Narrative Landscape of the Past to Create a More Just Future at the Smithsonian</b> Anthea Hartig
10:30 am – 11:15 am .....	<b>Creating Inclusion</b> William Polley
10:30 am – 11:15 am .....	<b>Beyond the Plantation - Slavery in Connecticut</b> Pauline C. Merrick
10:30 am – noon.....	<b>The Reparations Project / The Quarterman &amp; Keller Foundation</b> Sarah Eisner and Randy Quarterman
1:00 pm – 2:30 pm.....	<b>Reclaiming Narratives: Southern History in Technicolor</b> Theodora (Tedi) Light with Jared Asser and Ariana Persico
1:00 pm – 2:30 pm.....	<b>Can You Decolonize a Colonial Site?</b> Regina Faden with Sharol Yatman and Peter Friesen
1:00 pm – 1:45 pm.....	<b>Adapt or Perish: What Will Become of Slave Dwellings</b> Jason Church
1:00 pm – 1:45 pm.....	<b>Skill Attributes of Enslaved People in the U.S. &amp; Caribbean, 1860-1865</b> Paul Timothy Carr
1:00 pm – 1:45 pm.....	<b>Social Action on Historical Monuments to Create Human Amity Through Cultivating Love and Understanding,</b> Lex Musta
1:00 pm – 1:45 pm.....	<b>Building a Fundamental Archive for the African Methodist Episcopal Church</b> Aaron Treadwell
2:00 pm – 2:45 pm.....	<b>The Civil Rights Movement Beyond 1968 Griggs vs. Duke Power Company</b> Valencia Abbott
2:00 pm – 3:30 pm.....	<b>Descendant Voices that Change the Narrative</b> Jeanne Pirtle with Gwen Bankins, Janice Briscoe, Gina Gilliam, Donald Barber, Angela Wilson and Elizabeth Plater Cropp
4:00 pm – 5:00 pm.....	<b>We Wear the Mask</b> Ron Daise

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## FRIDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2021

- 9:00 am – 10:00 am ... ***From Documentation to Activism: Listening and Acting at MTSU Center for Historic Preservation***  
Carroll Van West
- 9:00 am – 9:45 am ... ***Not Just the Plantation: Changing Narratives at Historic Sites, Museums, and University Campuses***  
Rachel Stephens with Brigitte Janea Jones, August J. Dawson-Darbonne, and Trevian Ambroise
- 9:00 am – 9:45 am ..... ***The Peaceful Transfer of Power: Understanding and Overcoming Resistance to Inclusive Perspectives of History***, Jeanne Pirtle
- 9:00 am – 9:45 am ..... ***Reconstruction the Narrative: Investigation into the Morris Street Dwellings***  
Thomas Sutton
- 10:15 am – 11:30 am ..... ***Culture, Race, Landscape: Redefining Realities of the African American Experience in Williamson County, Tennessee***, Rachael A. Finch with Blake Wintory, PhD and Amanda Floyd-Hamilton
- 10:15 am – 11:30 am ..... ***Connecting the Dots***  
Karen Branan with Angela Dickey and Leslie Stainton
- Noon – 1:00 pm ..... **KEYNOTE: *What Americans Can Learn from Germany's Racial Reckoning***  
Susan Neiman
- 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm ..... ***Call My Name, Clemson: Changing the Narratives about Black People and a Burial Ground in a South Carolina University's History***, Rhondda Robinson Thomas
- 1:00 pm – 1:45 pm ..... ***Changing the Narrative at Two Tennessee State Parks***  
David Britton
- 1:00 pm – 2:30 pm ..... ***New London, Connecticut: Telling The Half That's Never Been Told***  
Tom Schuch with Lonnie Braxton II, Curtis Goodwin, Laura Natusch, Felix Reyes, and Nicole Thomas
- 1:00 pm – 2:30 pm ..... ***Actively Listening to the "Echoes of the Enslaved" in Prince George's County, Maryland***  
Stephanie Sperling
- 2:00 pm – 3:30 pm ..... ***Changing the Narrative through Living History: The Power of Inalienable Rights***  
Nicole Moore with Dontavius Williams
- 2:00 pm – 3:30 pm ***Saying Their Names: Interpreting Slavery and Shifting the Narrative at 19th Century Historic Sites in Louisville, Kentucky***, Teresa Lee with Kaitlyn Tisdale and Shirley Harmon
- 2:00 pm – 2:45 pm ..... ***"Twist and Shout": Turning Memorials of Slavery from Cancellation to Preservation and Narrations of Power***, Patricia Ann West
- 2:00 pm – 3:30 pm ..... ***Revisiting the Tolson's Chapel Community: Conversations from Past to Present - Freedom Episode***  
Edith Wallace with Emilie Amt, Ph.D, ZSun-nee Miller Matema, Bridgett Jones Smith, and Brenda Parker
- 2:00 pm – 2:45 pm ..... ***Slave Heritage Tourism in the United States : Understanding the Lives of the Slaves who Lived and Worked in the Huguenot Colonies***, Florence Gasparini
- 2:00 pm – 3:30 pm ..... ***Unforgotten: The Shelton Family Settlement at Possum Trot***  
Karen Stewart-Ross and Angela R. James

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## SATURDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2021

- 9:00 am..... **KEYNOTE: "Where I am learning how to belong": A Contemporary Look at the Captive African Household**  
Whitney Battle-Baptiste
- 10:00 am – 11:00 am ..... **Uncovering How Gwynn's Island, VA, Became a "White Man's Paradise":  
A Healing Journey to Restore the Erased History of a Black Community**  
Allison Thomas and Maria Montgomery
- 10:00 am – 10:45 am ..... **Visualizing Sites in the "City Too Busy to Hate": Atlanta Case Studies  
in Outreach and Digital Interpretation**  
Danielle S. Willkens
- 10:30 am – 11:15 am ..... **He knew how they came there: Using archives to learn about  
enslaved people at the Salem Witch House**  
Sara Harwood
- 10:30 am – 11:15 am ..... **Correcting the Historical Narrative in the Birthplace of America -  
Williamsburg, Jamestown and Yorktown, VA**  
Laura Hill and Fred Liggin
- 11:15 – noon..... **Closing Remarks**  
The Slave Dwelling Project Board of Directors

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**THE 1772 FOUNDATION**

*Supporting heritage efforts that document and preserve the contributions of African Americans in the United States and preserving sites that tell African American history in a forthright manner.*



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*Changing Narratives in Changing Times*

The Slave Dwelling Project envisions a future in which the hearts and minds of Americans acknowledge a more truthful and inclusive narrative of the history of the nation that honors the contributions of all our people, is embedded and preserved in the buildings and artifacts of people of African heritage, and inspires all Americans to acknowledge their Ancestors. The Slave Dwelling Project is a registered 501(c)(3) non profit organization.

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## KEYNOTE SPEAKER

*Above all Else, Tell the Truth: Narrating Hard History, Honestly*

Thursday, September 30, 9:00 am

Hasan Kwame Jeffries

**Hasan Kwame Jeffries** is associate professor of history at The Ohio State University, where he teaches courses on the Civil Rights and Black Power Movements. Hasan was born in Brooklyn, New York, and graduated summa cum laude from Morehouse College with a BA in history in 1994. At Morehouse, he was initiated into the Pi Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. He earned a PhD in American history with a specialization in African American history from Duke University in 2002. He taught for a year at the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa, before joining the faculty at The Ohio State University in 2003.



## *Challenging the Narrative Landscape of the Past to Create a More Just Future at the Smithsonian*

Thursday, September 30, 10:30 am – Noon

Anthea Hartig

Join Director Dr. Anthea M. Hartig and colleagues from the Smithsonian's Flagship History Museum, the National Museum of American History (NMAH), as well as from Secretary Lonnie G. Bunch III's Our Shared Future: Reckoning with our Racial Past Initiative, for an engaging conversation about new directions in public history research, community engagement, narrative formation, collecting and sharing. This work is anchored around the understanding that *"Knowledge of the past is not a luxury: it is a necessity for civic health. Learning history helps people understand that today's world is not inevitable, but the result of myriad choices and actions made by individuals and communities. People see the range of creativity and cruelty, insight and indifference, innovation and injustice of which humans are capable. With this knowledge, they can take more informed, just, and compassionate actions to forge a shared future"* (NMAH Strategic Plan, 2020).

**Anthea M. Hartig** is an American historian and museum administrator who is the Elizabeth MacMillan Director of the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of American History in Washington, D.C. The Smithsonian trustees appointed Hartig as director beginning in 2019, succeeding John Gray. She is the museum's first woman director.

### PANELISTS:

- Patricia Arteaga, Program Coordinator, Center for Restorative History (CRH), National Museum of American History
- Dr. Modupe Labode, Curator, Division of Cultural and Community Life and Division of Political and Military History
- Dr. Orlando Serrano, Manager of Youth and Teacher Programs

### Moderated by:

Anthea M. Hartig, PhD,  
the Elizabeth MacMillan Director of the National Museum of American History

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## THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2021



### ***Creating Inclusion***

**Thursday, September 30, 10:30 am -11:15 am**

**William Polley**

Speaking of the future, museums and other cultural institutions will always have a role to play in the education of future generations. The museum is more relevant today than it has ever been. From addressing key social issues to transforming how we see the future, museums have the power to reflect and shape our society. Today, it's impossible to ignore the escalating tensions between nations, between political parties and between different cultural groups. But if we look back through history these challenges are not new. To help the public find a common ground and learn to build bridges rather than breed division, museums have a role to play in giving us perspective – be it through intellectual exercises or merely holding up mistakes of the past as evidence. This presentation is about not only changing the narrative at the Levi Jordan & Varner Hogg Plantation State Historic Site but also changing the narrative in the museum profession as a whole.

**William Polley** is from Houston, Tx. A two-time graduate of Prairie View A&M University, he received a bachelor's degree in Political Science and Master's in Community Development. He is an Educator/Interpreter at The Levi Jordan & Varner Hogg Plantation State Historic Site under the direction of the Texas Historical Commission. He envisions a future in which the hearts and minds of Americans acknowledge a more truthful and inclusive narrative of the history of the nation that honors the contributions of all our people and is embedded and preserved within society. Polley is now an advocate for African American history on a full-time basis; ensuring that the stories of the enslaved people at Levi Jordan and Varner Hogg Plantation are interpreted and connected to the current events occurring today in America to create a more equitable society.



### ***Beyond the Plantation - Slavery in Connecticut***

**Thursday, September 30, 10:30 am – 11:15 am**

**Pauline C. Merrick**

Enslavement of Black Africans was not an exclusively “Southern” institution. Black captives from Africa or the West Indies were brought to Connecticut from the earliest days of the colony. This “forgotten” history is now being revealed by historians and genealogists, but more effort is needed to push this information out to the general public. This presentation explores the history of the Connecticut slave trade, laws that were initiated for control of that population, and the social influences that brought the practice to an end. Records that name enslaved and free persons of color will be discussed.

**Pauline C. Merrick** has a lifelong interest in genealogy. She is the published author of a book and several magazine articles. She lectures on Connecticut research and serves on the Board of Governors for the Connecticut Society of Genealogists as Vice President and Program Committee Chair, and conducts special projects for the Samuel Huntington Homestead. She is a member of the DAR and the Mayflower Society, based on her long heritage of Connecticut ancestors.

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**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2021**



***The Reparations Project / The Quarterman & Keller Foundation***

**Thursday, September 30, 10:30 am - noon**

**Sarah Eisner and Randy Quarterman**

It was narrative—writing, storytelling—that proliferated racism and the construct of race from the beginning. Specifically, it was a one-sided and false narrative. The Reparations Project believes that it will be a dual narrative, at least in part, that breaks it down for the future, and that we must each tell our truth and personal stories. We believe that national reparations are critical, but also that we cannot wait for the government to act in order to heal or truth-tell. Relationships, storytelling, and truth-telling are critical to acknowledgement and healing, individually and collectively. We believe that, like Sarah Eisner and Randy Quarterman, descendants from both sides of slavery--of the enslaved and of enslavers--can form strong bonds through establishing relationships and storytelling from both sides. We will talk about our work together, and with the Quarterman & Keller Social Justice Scholars at Spelman, Morehouse, Clark Atlanta (and associate scholars at Kennesaw State and Georgia Southern University), and their work being trained in oral history-taking. With the expert care and coaching of Dr. Gloria Gayles at Spelman, and Patt Gunn of Savannah's Center for Jubilee & Healing, these 11 scholars who are supported financially by our foundation are also engaging in personal narrative recording and interviewing.



**Sarah Eisner** co-founded The Reparations Project, a foundation that aims to create new models of personal and local repair through financial investment in the Black community, with Randy Quarterman, the great-great-great grandson of a man her great-great-great grandfather enslaved and then gave reparations land to in Port Wentworth, Georgia. Sarah was born and raised in California and had a career in tech in Silicon Valley before shifting gears to write nonfiction and work on personal reparations.

Together with Sarah Eisner, **Randy Quarterman** co-founded The Reparations Project, a foundation that aims to create new models of personal and local repair through financial investment in the Black community. Randy Quarterman is the 4th generation descendant of Zieke Quarterman, who was enslaved and then given reparations land in Port Wentworth, Georgia. Randy was born in Okinawa, Japan, where his mother, Hideko Shimoji, and the Shimoji family reside. Randy Quarterman has served his country in Iraq and proudly served over 20 years in active service for the Army.

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## THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2021



### ***Reclaiming Narratives: Southern History in Technicolor***

**Thursday, September, 30, 1:00 pm – 2:30 pm**

**Theodora (Tedi) Light**

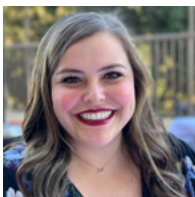
In 1526, Spanish slaving ships arrived in North America. They bore enslaved Africans and sought captive American Indians for plantations in the Caribbean. Burgeoning scholarship has begun evaluating this earliest American slavery, but the history of US colonial development has followed a predictable pattern of Anglo-centric narratives, often erasing the complex intersections of life on the fringes. History is indeed a changing discipline, but it is changing slowly behind such moral imperatives as decolonization. This panel seeks to address the ways the history of the US South presents unique opportunities to move beyond Eurocentric, Christian and White histories through fuller interpretation of its Native and Jewish past.

**Theodora (Tedi) Light** completed her undergraduate education in May 2020 at the University of South Carolina, Beaufort, with a double major in history and Spanish. She spent 8 years in the Beaufort, SC, area, where she met her husband, Carl, and served on the board of the League of Women Voters. Now in the MA program in History at the University of Georgia in her hometown of Athens, Light uses anthropological and historical methodology to study the Native South during the Spanish colonial period. Her work is especially focused on the Indigenous groups of South Florida and how their histories were central to the formation of a broader regional and circum-Caribbean connectedness.

### **PANELISTS**



**Jared Asser** just began his second year of doctoral study at the University of Georgia. He works in three broad and overlapping areas: the political and cultural history of the American Far-Right; music history; and most recently, the history of emotions. His (tentative) doctoral research seeks to understand how conflicting sets of emotional norms supported or challenged the myriad successes and failures of the Reconstruction period. Outside of academia, he believes strongly that historical knowledge should guide public policy. A newcomer to the American South, Jared has spent most of his life in Toronto and Ottawa.



**Ariana Persico** completed her undergraduate education at the University of California, Santa Barbara, in 2017. After taking a year off to make magic with The Walt Disney Company she moved to Eugene, Oregon, for two years to complete her MA at the University of Oregon. Immediately after graduating in 2020, Ariana moved to the South to start her PhD at the University of Georgia under the direction of James F. Brooks. Ariana's research incorporates historical, archaeological, and public history methodologies to examine trauma, repatriation, and memory in the Native South. Currently her work focuses on the repatriation, reaffiliation, and history of Native artifacts housed in the University of Georgia's Special Collections.

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### *Can You Decolonize a Colonial Site?*

Thursday, September 30, 1:00 pm – 2:30 pm

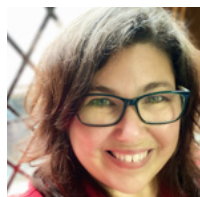
Regina Faden

This session addresses the conference topic by offering a case study of a 17th-century colonial site re-examining its representation of colonized African and indigenous peoples. Historic St. Mary's City (HSMC) is a museum of history and archeology at the site of Maryland's 17th-century capital. Since its establishment, the museum's interpretation and marketing have focused on the story of the European settlers. By late 2018, HSMC understood that there was a critical need for external critique to restructure its interpretation to improve relevancy and provide value to contemporary audiences. In 2019, HSMC conducted multiple focus groups and evaluation sessions. The first focus group discussion, with a diverse coalition of community partners, provided powerful

feedback. The main takeaways were: HSMC views history through a colonialist lens, the museum had damaged relationships with community members through tokenism, and community partners were unsure if HSMC was willing to be honest in its new narrative. That feedback helped forge a partnership with community members that has fundamentally changed HSMC's understanding of its story and its place within the community. Additionally, the pandemic, shutdowns, and the international reaction to the death of George Floyd and others mandated that HSMC take a public and active anti-racist position.

**Regina Faden, PhD**, is Executive Director of Historic St. Mary's City (HSMC). The museum researches, preserves and interprets the story of the site that became Maryland's 17th-century capital in 1634, focusing more recently on the context and impact of colonialism in early Maryland. Before coming to St. Mary's City, she served as Executive Director of the Mark Twain Boyhood Home & Museum in Hannibal, Missouri, where she developed award-winning teachers' workshops and created sustainable cultural programs. Faden serves on the Advisory Board of the Center for the Study of Democracy at St. Mary's College of Maryland, as well as other non-profit boards. She has published on topics related to museum studies and taught courses in writing, literature, American history, and museum studies at institutions including Boston College, Saint Louis University, University of Missouri-St. Louis, and St. Mary's College of Maryland

### PANELISTS



**Sharol Yatman** is the External Relations Manager with Historic St. Mary's City (HSMC). After spending over fifteen years in theater, Sharol has a passion for storytelling, specifically in finding the stories of those whose voices have been lost over time. Beginning her museum career with HSMC, she was originally hired as a museum guide. Thirteen years ago, Sharol was promoted to manage programs as well as group tours. Moving to External Relations has given her the opportunity to diversify the outward-facing message of the museum, shifting the focus from colonial history to one that is more inclusive (while recognizing this is a constant work in progress). Sharol holds a B.A. in Theater from the University of Maryland, Baltimore County



**Peter Friesen** received his Bachelor of Arts Degree from New Mexico State University, focusing on history with a minor in anthropology. He went on to receive his master's degree in public history in 2006. During his senior year at NMSU Friesen decided to focus on a career in living history. After graduating, Friesen decided to attend graduate school and focus on public history. His degree plan included a research paper of journal length and quality and several hours interning at the Smithsonian Folklife Festival assisting the supply coordinator. His research paper, titled "Hemp, History and Museums," looked at how marijuana laws have affected public perception of hemp and how it is interpreted in living history museums. This led Friesen to Colonial Williamsburg, where he worked for two years finishing his research and completing a master's degree. During this time, he started to look for a living history museum that also incorporated agriculture, which is how he came to be at HSMC, where he received the New Professional Travel Award. He has continued his agricultural research to include tobacco, apples, livestock, and other aspects of colonial farming life. Friesen is also active in the larger museum profession. He has presented at several conferences and is currently on the board of directors for both the Association of Living History Farm and Agricultural museums and the Patuxent River Naval Air Museum. Friesen also serves on the museum studies steering committee at St. Mary's College of Maryland as well as teaching museum studies.

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## THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2021



### ***Adapt or Perish: What Will Become of Slave Dwellings***

**Thursday, September 30, 1:00 pm – 1:45 pm**

**Jason Church**

The National Center for Preservation Technology and Training (NCPTT) in Natchitoches, Louisiana, is currently traveling the country documenting existing slave houses. During this project we have documented houses that are owned by foundations, museums, national and state parks, and individuals. The houses of the enslaved have been in all conditions from completely rehabilitated into modern housing to full collapse. Part of this documentation project is to bring awareness to the preservation of these structures but to what end? Is it enough to document these vanishing forms of vernacular architecture or should they all be saved? If preserved, for what purpose? This presentation will examine a range of structures that have been preserved as everything from memorials to the enslaved, modern housing, interpretive sites, bridal dressing rooms, and restaurants, and will discuss what is to be done with those that still need saving.

**Jason Church** is Chief of the Technical Services Division at the National Center for Preservation Technology and Training (NCPTT), a research and training office of the National Park Service. Since September 2020 Church has led the Slave and Tenant Farmer Housing Documentation Project. Church divides his time between original research, field work on outdoor sculpture and architectural materials, and organizing various trainings and conferences. He earned his MFA in Historic Preservation from Savannah College of Art and Design.



### ***Skill Attributes of Enslaved People in the U.S & Caribbean, 1860-1865***

**Thursday, September 30, 1:00 pm – 1:45 pm**

**Paul Timothy Carr**

As in many research pursuits, there is no one vast resource that warehouses the information regarding slaves or any particular skills or trades they may have possessed. Information is scattered across a wide range of resources, many of them available online. There are a number of sites devoted to African-American history, but most of those do not possess any comprehensive materials or sources that would indicate slave skills. Most are devoted to resourcing names and ages of slaves that might lead to genealogical research. The vast majority of primary and secondary resources online or of interest to my investigation came from the Digital Public Library of America (DPLA), university archives, and state/county archives. Some of the richest resources for skill attributes of slaves can be found on county-based sites, such as [glynnen.com](http://glynnen.com) of Glynn County, Georgia, and [freeafricanamericans.com](http://freeafricanamericans.com) of Halifax County in North Carolina. These sites have taken the primary resources and transcribed the information for their sites. In dealing with handwritten, primary resources--some of which are in very poor condition--this does open the possibility of error in interpretation. In my research I have taken care to obtain as many primary sources as possible.

**Paul Timothy Carr** was born in Cape Girardeau, Missouri, and lived in a number of cities around the US before retiring in 2020 and settling in Seabrook, South Carolina. Having a lifelong interest in art, he received a BA in Art and Art History from Southern Illinois University and worked for over fifteen years in advertising for the Gannett Company. Experiencing his own "transformation" he moved to Georgia to work in disability services at the University of Georgia. While at the University he received a MEd in Adult Education and an EdS in Lifelong Learning and Organization Development. His interests include adult transformative learning and the history of adult education. He has a particular interest in education and the African-American experience, which led him to write the paper presented at this conference.

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## THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2021



***Social Action on Historical Monuments to Create Human Amity  
Through Cultivating Love and Understanding***  
**Thursday, September 30, 1:00 pm – 1:45 pm**  
**Lex Musta**

Public discourse about historical monuments has been intensifying in the United States and around the world. How we memorialize and represent history raises vital issues about the path to greater racial justice and advancing understandings of unity. This participatory dialogue draws on a tangible case study of social action -- the effort to restore desecrated headstones of Americans of African descent. In 2020 the effort to restore the headstones gained national attention, including in the *Washington Post* and on *CBS Sunday Morning*, and is now supported financially by multiple governments as a unifying example of recovering history that educates and inspires across racial, social, and political lines.

**Lex Musta** is a co-founder of the African American Historical Alliance of South Carolina; a Project Director working on restorative justice initiatives with the History, Arts, and Science Action Network (HASAN); and an independent researcher whose work focuses on the role of social meanings in shaping race relations. Musta's research and work have played a pivotal role in the finding and restoration of tombstones from the Columbian Harmony Cemetery, a historic African Descent American burial ground that was dug up and relocated in 1960 to make way for commercial development. Musta is a frequent lecturer and author on the history and contemporary challenge of the struggle for racial justice in the United States, with a particular call to allies to "Show up! Listen up! Stand up!"



***Building a Fundamental Archive for the African Methodist Episcopal Church:  
A Survey Report on the Digital A.M.E.-Archives Project***  
**Thursday, September, 30, 1:00 pm – 1:45 pm**  
**Aaron Treadwell**

The African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church is widely recognized for its impact on the socio-political developments of Black liberation theology. However, many of the historical accomplishments of the AME Church are clandestine, due to an institutionalized strategy of historical preservation. My research has concluded that acts of clandestine social action by Black persons have had a negative correlation when measuring historical preservation, all in order to maintain anonymity. The practice of "hiding history," something well recognized amongst African-American researchers, has caused an evolutionary neglect for proper record-keeping and archiving specifically in the AME Church. These results can

explain why the oldest Black connectional denomination in the world lacks an archive that houses basic information like founding dates, pastor names, and edifice dedications. Solving this issue must begin by creating a public and accessible digital archive that can analyze the foundational accomplishments and actors within the church's two-hundred year history.

**Aaron Treadwell, PhD** is an Assistant Professor of History at Middle Tennessee State University (MTSU). His areas of expertise are Black Spirituality, with an emphasis on the African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church; U.S. History with an emphasis on socio-political activism; African-American history; and public history, with an emphasis on data archiving. Before coming to MTSU Treadwell taught history and religion at Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University (FAMU) from 2015 to 2018. He also taught at Howard University, Howard Divinity School, and Edward Waters College (EWC). Treadwell's public history journey began in Washington, D.C., as an employee in the National Archives I as a digital assistant in the Widows Pension File project, from 2014-2015. Currently, he is the founder and archival engineer of the A.M. E. Digital Archives project, which houses information on every church in the denomination (7,000+). Treadwell is also an Ordained Itinerant Elder in the African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church, where he presently serves in the South Nashville Conference, in the 13th Episcopal District. Prior to moving to Nashville, Treadwell pastored two congregations in the 11th Episcopal District, Florida Conference -- Stewart Memorial AME Church, Perry, Florida; and Oak Grove AME Church, Chattahoochee, Florida. Treadwell is a graduate of Howard University, with a PhD in history (2017). He also has degrees from Florida State (BS 2008), Emory University (M.Div. 2011), and Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University (MASS 2013). Treadwell is married to Jade Treadwell, and they have one child, Carter Treadwell.

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## THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2021

### ***The Civil Rights Movement Beyond 1968 Griggs vs. Duke Power Company***

**Thursday, September 30, 2:00 pm – 2:45 pm**

**Valencia Abbott**

The title of this presentation, *The Civil Rights Movement Beyond 1968 Griggs vs. Duke Power Company*, reflects the fact that many believe that the Civil Rights Movement ended with the assassination of Martin Luther King Jr. The truth is the fight for equality, equity, and justice did not begin in the 1950s nor did it end on April 4, 1968. The fight for civil rights took many forms. One of them was when 14 African American men signed a statement on March 3, 1966, to their supervisor that read in part: "We the employees of the Duke Power Steam Station, Draper, NC, wish to issue a complaint of discrimination because of our race against the company. On the (1st) day of March 1966, we request to



be considered for higher-paying classifications whenever a vacancy occurred in higher classified jobs." This presentation adheres to the theme Changing Narrative in Changing Times by expanding our understanding of the Civil Rights Movement on both ends of the timeline, and taking the conversation before the country became a country and expanding it today with the Black Lives Movement. The main focus will be the story of the Griggs vs. Duke Power case's inclusion into the narrative.

**Valencia Abbott** was born and raised in Rockingham County, North Carolina. She can trace her lineage back to her paternal grandparents who resided in Rockingham County. She is the Social Studies Department Chair and History teacher at Rockingham Early College High School in Wentworth, NC and has been in education for 17 years. After completing a master's degree in Liberal Studies, she received a Post-Baccalaureate Certificate in African American Studies at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. In 2016 she received her Add-On Licensure Academically/Intellectually Gifted (AIG) from Duke University. She serves on several advisory boards, including the History Task Force - Educating for American Democracy: A Roadmap for Excellence in History and Civics Education for All Learners (2020); NCDPI-Social Studies Standard Course of Study Revision Review Team (2020); Carter G. Woodson Book Award Selection Committee; iCivics Educator Network(2016-2023); American Civil War (AMCW) Advisory Teacher Council (2017-2020). The other parts of her life are filled with three daughters, one son-in-law, three grandchildren, and two grand furbabies. Along with her personal agenda of scholar activism, she is serving as the chairperson of the Education Committee of the Reidsville (North Carolina) Branch of the NAACP, board member of the Professional Educators of North Carolina, and the planning committee of the Museum and Archives of Rockingham County, NC.

### ***Descendant Voices that Change the Narrative***

**Thursday, September 30, 2:00 pm – 3:30 pm**

**Jeanne Pirtle**

In this time of social turbulence, with political, economic, justice, and medical disparities exposed and systemic racism the rotten root, there is an opportunity to educate the public on these causes to find solutions. As a site of history and memory, Historic Sotterley in Hollywood, Maryland, is changing the narrative to include multiple perspectives. By focusing on people directly affected by this history and connected to this site, we are exposing real, relatable lives to make the history personal, not abstract. Exposing, telling, and sharing these stories brings about real changes in the narrative that leads to action.



**Jeanne Pirtle** has been with Historic Sotterley, Inc., since August of 2010. As Director of Educational Programming and Partnerships, she has seen to fruition the documentation of Sotterley as a Middle Passage site and a UNESCO Site of Memory. She has received two Preservation Awards from the Maryland Historic Trust for the Slave Cabin exhibit and Common Ground Programming, and helped to formalize Sotterley's Descendants Project. Sotterley's Common Ground initiative programming and events bring together descendants, of both enslavers and the enslaved, to provide stories and leadership that lead to empathy, healing, and activism. Pirtle holds degrees from Washington State University and Notre Dame of Maryland University.

#### **PANELISTS:**

Sotterley Descendants: Gwen Bankins, Janice Briscoe, Gina Gilliam, Donald Barber, Angela Wilson, and Elizabeth Plater Cropp.

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## THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2021



### ***We Wear the Mask***

**Thursday, September 30, 4:00 pm – 5:00 pm**

**Ron Daise**

“We Wear the Mask” embraces the theme “Changing Narratives in Changing Times” by exploring the roots of racial hatred and intolerance and by utilizing an age-old method to undo them. Storytelling, a cultural linchpin of West African and Gullah communities, is showcased in the Gullah language of the enslaved workers and with Celia Mud Snake’s remembrance of “The Farmer, the Snake, and the Heron,” a traditional Hausa tale she heard told during childhood by Grandpa Serpent. The story concludes with a recreated tale recounted by Juba Bunny Rabbit, who has finally realized, “I am clever, quick-witted, astute, sharp, and smart. From my youth til I stop hopping, brilliance sets me apart!” Therein is my intent for my publications of Geechee Lit: to inform about heritage through literature that showcases the brilliance, strength, beauty, flaws, and values of a contemporary people, unlike narratives that have fomented contrary views. The story “We Wear the Mask” unfolded during the worldwide shutdown brought on by the Covid-19 pandemic. My writing afforded me a vital coping mechanism as murders, movements, and the need for altered narratives seared our consciences and collective consciousness.

**Ron Daise**, of Georgetown, SC, and a native of St. Helena Island, SC, is an author, performing artist, educator, and cultural interpreter. Since 2004, Daise has served as Vice President for Creative Education at Brookgreen Gardens in Murrells Inlet, SC, where his accomplishments, in part, garnered him the 2019 SC Governor’s Distinctive Achievement Award. Also a recipient of South Carolina’s Order of the Palmetto Award, he is known by many as “Mr. Ron” from “Gullah Gullah Island,” the Nick Jr. TV’s award-winning children’s program of the 1990s. Daise is a former chairman of the federal Gullah Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor Commission and currently serves on the Charles Joyner Institute for Gullah and African Diaspora Studies Advisory Board. He is featured in a video exhibit about Black language and speech at the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture. Daise is a graduate of Hampton Institute (now University) in Hampton, VA. He and his wife, Natalie, are parents of adult children.

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**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2021**



***From Documentation to Activism:***

***Listening and Acting at the MTSU Center for Historic Preservation***

**Friday, October 1, 9:00 am -10:00 am**

**Carroll Van West**

**Carroll Van West** has been the director of the Middle Tennessee State University Center for Historic Preservation since 2002. Currently serving as the Tennessee State Historian and as a member of the National Historic Landmarks Committee, West has worked with and for communities of color to carry out many preservation and history projects, including the National Register nominations for Rural African American Churches in Tennessee; the U. S. Public Health Service Syphilis Study in Macon County, Alabama; and properties in Tennessee, Georgia, Kentucky, and Missouri associated with the Cherokee Trail of Tears. In Alabama, he also worked with the cities of Birmingham and Selma to conduct their National Register Multiple Property Nominations for the Civil Rights Movement and is currently involved with a similar project with Montgomery's Civil Rights Movement properties.

Carroll Van West is an American historian. He is the Tennessee State Historian and a professor of history at MTSU. He is the author or editor of several books about Montana and Tennessee.

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## FRIDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2021



***Not Just the Plantation: Changing Narratives at Historic Sites, Museums, and University Campuses***  
**Friday, October 1, 9:00 am – 9:45 am**  
**Rachel Stephens**

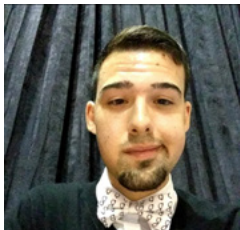
There has been a great deal of discussion in the last few years regarding plantations as sites of enslavement. Interpretive best practices, staff training, and descendant community engagement are slowly becoming topics of conversation at an institutional level, even if the institutions themselves range widely in their degree of action. However, what steps are institutions outside plantations taking to challenge narratives that write out the significance of African Americans to their histories? And for those who are working with plantations, what actions are being taken to ensure that narrative growth does not become stagnant or reduced to a strategic plan action point?

**Rachel Stephens** is an associate professor of art history at the University of Alabama. Her research focuses on the visual and material culture of enslavement. Her article “Revisiting ‘History’s Huts’: Interpreting Slavery and Naming Names at Historic Sites” is forthcoming this fall in *Buildings and Landscapes*. Her second book, focusing on the imaging of enslaved people in the antebellum South and entitled *Hidden in Plain Sight: Slavery and Concealment in Antebellum American Art*, is forthcoming from the University of Arkansas Press. Stephens is also a member of the faculty research group for the study of slavery and its legacies on her campus, the University of Alabama.

### PANELISTS



**Brigette Janae Jones** is the Director of Equitable Partnerships for Belle Meade Historic Site and Winery in Nashville, Tennessee and founder of Bridge Builders Historical Consulting, LLC. Her academic focus is primarily on the lasting legacy of American chattel enslavement on Tennesseans and surrounding areas. Her work has been recognized by the Smithsonian Institute, NPR, The Tennessean, Nashville Scene, and Garden and Gun Magazine where she was named one of the 2019 “30 Southern Heroes”.



**August J. Dawson-Darbonne** is a native of South Louisiana, born into a multicultural family. Always passionate about history, he graduated from the University of New Orleans with a B.A. and M.A. in History with a concentration in Public History. His research focus has included resistance amongst enslaved communities, Afro-Latino studies, LGBT studies, and Black Greek letter organizations. He is currently a doctoral student at Xavier University of Louisiana, working towards a Doctorate of Education. He resides in Dallas, Texas.



**Trevian Ambroise** is an undergraduate history major at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. In the summer of 2021, he worked as an intern alongside the team at the National Trust for Historic Preservation’s steward site of The Shadows-on-the-Teche to tell a fuller and more inclusive history. From these conversations, he created a digital mapping project that centers the lives and experiences of the enslaved community and their descendants, entitled *Beyond The Shadows*. Graduating in Spring 2022, Trevian has plans to pursue further studies in urban planning.

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***The Peaceful Transfer of Power: Understanding and Overcoming Resistance to Inclusive Perspectives of History***

**Friday, October 1, 9:00 am – 9:45 am**

**Jeanne Pirtle**

Combining research, data, testimony, and hard-knocks experience, the work of changing the narrative using Historic Sotterley's story aims to give hope, help, and encouragement to courageously transform the narrative in your own institutions and communities.

Changing the narrative of a 60-year-old museum non-profit that interprets roughly between 1699-1960 is a feat. Added to this, Historic Sotterley is a remnant of a large plantation farm where slavery was a reality from its inception. Continuously owned by white men and women who were of wealth and status by birth, and a museum founded

by the granddaughter of J. P. Morgan, over the last decade, Historic Sotterley in St. Mary's County, Maryland, has been in major transition, slowly moving from an interpretation based on a wealthy white male narrative to one of inclusion of perspectives as one narrative history of owners, workers, women, and children, enslaved and free.

**Jeanne Pirtle** has been with Historic Sotterley, Inc., since August of 2010. As Director of Educational Programming and Partnerships, she has seen to fruition the documentation of Sotterley as a Middle Passage site and a UNESCO Site of Memory. She has received two Preservation Awards from the Maryland Historic Trust for the Slave Cabin exhibit and Common Ground Programming, and helped to formalize Sotterley's Descendants Project.

Sotterley's Common Ground initiative programming and events bring together descendants, of both enslavers and the enslaved, to provide stories and leadership that lead to empathy, healing, and activism. Pirtle holds degrees from Washington State University and Notre Dame of Maryland University.



***Reconstruction the Narrative: Investigation into the Morris Street Dwellings***

**Friday, October 1, 9:00 am – 9:45 am**

**Thomas Sutton**

The topic of slavery in the United States is one that in recent years has garnered much attention and study, yet the same cannot be said for the period immediately following Emancipation. Currently, the exploration of the lives of formerly enslaved individuals following the end of the Civil War is a developing field of study. Recently, an opportunity to further our understanding of this subject arose during the study of the Morris Street dwellings located in Anderson, South Carolina. An investigation into the dwellings' architecture, material history, and property research conducted by the Clemson

University/College of Charleston graduate historic preservation program revealed that the structures--initially believed to be former "slave cabins"--were most likely built after the Civil War. While initially a disheartening revelation to the students, this finding led to a unique opportunity for a more detailed study of the lives and culture of previously enslaved individuals. Further research into the dwellings themselves, their inhabitants, and the area that surrounded them paints a detailed history of people adjusting and adapting to a rapidly changing cultural landscape. The Morris Street dwellings provide an exceptional opportunity to study and educate on a lesser-known, but ever vital part of American cultural history.

**Thomas Sutton** is originally from Cleveland, Ohio, and received his bachelor's degree in history from Highpoint University in High Point, North Carolina. After this he underwent a year of service with Americorps NCCC FEMACorps, where he was assigned to aid FEMA Environmental Planning and Historic Preservation. His interest in the field of preservation began here and grew. He continues to pursue the field of preservation as a second-year student in the Clemson and College of Charleston Joint Masters of Science Program in Historic Preservation, based in the Clemson Design Center in Charleston, South Carolina.



## FRIDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2021



***Culture, Race, Landscape: Redefining Realities of the African American Experience in Williamson County, Tennessee***  
**Friday, October 1, 10:15 am – 11:30 am**  
**Rachael A. Finch**

Within the past decade, there has been a noticeable shift in redefining the realities surrounding the historical narrative of Williamson County's African American experience. From the "back of the big house" tours at historic house museums to the battlefields, to the public squares, more attention is being placed on the African American experience tied to slavery, the Civil War, and Reconstruction. Regardless of the forward progress, historians and preservationists continually debate with locals on such issues as "why preserve? There is no black history at that site." "Can we stop talking about race?" "Do we need to keep reliving the past?" Our answer is, yes, we preserve because there is Black

history at every site, and no, we will not stop talking about race simply because it makes someone uncomfortable with how they remember a past they never lived. Breaking down barriers, one conversation at a time, one project at a time, is how we will change and redefine the narrative. Our recent projects in Williamson County, TN, particularly in the city of Franklin, demonstrate our focus to change the narrative in changing times.

**Rachael Harrell Finch** is the Senior Director of Preservation, Education, and Advocacy for the Heritage Foundation of Williamson County, Tennessee. With over ten years of experience in historic preservation, museum leadership, and nonprofit management, Finch leads the preservation team in all preservation and education programming and projects, interpretation planning, and community advocacy. Finch holds an MA in Public History with an emphasis in Historic Preservation, Cultural Resource Management and Administration of Historical Organizations, from Middle Tennessee State University and a BA in history and political science from Metropolitan State University in Denver, Colorado. Finch previously served as the Executive Director for the Historic Franklin Masonic Hall Foundation, as Research Historian for the Tennessee Civil War National Heritage Area, and as Civil War Projects Coordinator for the Center for Historic Preservation at Middle Tennessee State University. Finch, a recipient of the Scott Hartwig Fellowship at the Civil War Institute at Gettysburg College, serves on the board of directors for the Franklin Civil War Round Table. She currently chairs the City of Franklin's Civil War Historical Commission and serves on the membership committee for the National Preservation Partners Network. Finch has appeared in several award-winning documentaries including *The American South As We Know It* and *Desperate Days: The Last Hope for the Confederacy*.

### PANELISTS



**Blake Wintory, Ph D**, is the director of preservation at the Heritage Foundation of Williamson County, Tennessee. Previously he spent a decade as the director of Lakeport Plantation, an Arkansas State University Heritage Site in Chicot County. His scholarly work can be found in the *Arkansas Historical Quarterly*, *Preservation Mississippi Blog*, the *Arkansas Review*, the *Biographical Database of Black Women Suffragists*, and most recently in an *Encyclopedia of Arkansas* entry on Arkansas's eighty-six 19th-century African American legislators.



Originally from North Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, **Amanda Floyd-Hamilton** received her BA in history in 2016 and MA in liberal studies from Coastal Carolina University in 2018. In 2015, Floyd-Hamilton co-authored *A War on Two Fronts*, presenting the discrimination and racism African American soldiers faced at home and abroad in World War II. With over twenty years in architectural draftsmanship, Floyd's focus turned to entering the PhD program at Middle Tennessee State University where she is a graduate research assistant with the Center for Historic Preservation. Floyd's areas of concentration are historic preservation, African American history, and architectural history with an emphasis on digital history, race and gender studies, and archaeology. Her residency through the Heritage Foundation of Williamson County is primarily focused on the last remaining Rosenwald School in Williamson County and the cultural landscape of the Duplex community.

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## ***Connecting the Dots***

**Friday, October 1, 10:15 am – 11:30 am**

**Karen Branan**

To those who wonder how it's possible, in a democracy founded on the ideals of freedom and equality, for a Black man like George Floyd to be murdered in broad daylight on a public thoroughfare, or for a white-extremist mob to storm the U.S. Capitol, the answer is clear: connect the dots. In this presentation, Karen Branan will be joined by Leslie Stainton and Angela Dickey as they examine the history of their white Georgia ancestors and draw direct parallels between the crimes of their forebears and events in 2020 and 2021. The presenters will also discuss ways that white Americans can research family history and connect dots to the present day.

As authors of recent books on the 19th- and 20th-century crimes of their white-supremacist Georgia ancestors—and how those crimes have led to 21st-century racial oppression—both Branan and Stainton are engaged in changing narratives. Dickey, too, is actively researching and writing about her family's connections to slavery. Their collective presentation will show directly how the events of 2020 and 2021 are rooted in American history and in this nation's centuries-old caste system. The presenters will also detail ways that white Americans can and must examine their ancestral histories for clues as well as solutions to today's racial inequalities and injustices, and how such work can help change the prevailing American narrative about slavery and its aftermath.

**Karen Branan** is a veteran investigative reporter and documentary filmmaker whose work has appeared in *Ms. Mother Jones*, *Life*, *The Guardian*, *New York Times*, *Atlanta Journal Constitution*, as well as on *PBS*, *CBS*, and *BBC*. A descendant of enslavers, lawmakers, and law enforcers in Harris County, Georgia, Branan is the author of the 2016 book *The Family Tree: A Lynching in Georgia, a Legacy of Secrets, and My Search for the Truth*. . She will discuss the repair work she and other white family members do with descendants of her ancestors' lynchings. A former women's studies instructor at the University of Minnesota, Branan works with Community Reconciliation Projects to memorialize lynchings, and with the Civil Rights & Restorative Justice Project and other entities helping police departments face and heal historical and ongoing racism.

## **PANELISTS**



**Angela Dickey** retired from the U.S. Department of State in 2013 after 27 years as a Foreign Service Officer, including postings in southeast Asia, north Africa, and the Middle East. Since then she has been researching her genealogy, including her ancestral connections to slavery. She is a member of the board of the Slave Dwelling Project and a co-facilitator of the Linked Descendant Working Group of the nationwide anti-racism non-profit Coming to the Table. She also is an officer of the DACOR Bacon House Foundation in Washington, D.C., a 200-year-old house-museum near the White House, which was built by enslaved workers. Dickey is overseeing efforts to reinterpret the site's history to lift up the stories of all who lived and worked there--not just its famous white residents, who include Supreme Court justices and members of Congress.



**Leslie Stainton**, a former University of Michigan faculty member, has served on the board of the Slave Dwelling Project since 2018. She is a past board member of Coming to the Table and the author of three books, including the forthcoming *Being Scarlett: A Family Reckoning*, a history-memoir about her slaveholding Georgia ancestors.

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## KEYNOTE SPEAKER

*What Americans Can Learn from Germany's Racial Reckoning*

Friday, October 1, 2021, Noon - 1:00 pm

Susan Neiman

Susan Neiman is an American moral philosopher, cultural commentator, and essayist. She has written extensively on the juncture between Enlightenment moral philosophy, metaphysics, and politics, both for scholarly audiences and the general public. Her most recent book, *Learning from the Germans: Race and the Memory of Evil* (2019), asks what Americans can learn from the Germans about confronting the evils of the past and delivers an urgently needed perspective on how a nation can come to terms with historical wrongdoing. Neiman's presentation will include a Q&A with Slave Dwelling Project board of director members Frederick Deshon Murphy and Leslie Stainton.



*Call My Name, Clemson: Changing the Narratives about Black People and a Burial Ground in a South Carolina University's History*

Friday, October 1, 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm

Rhondda Robinson Thomas

Until fairly recently, if you took a tour of US statesman John C. Calhoun's Fort Hill Plantation house that sits in the middle of the Clemson University campus, you would not have heard anything about enslavement or enslaved people. This session first explores how the Call My Name Project, which documents and shares stories about Black people in Clemson history from the antebellum period to the present, helped change the university's public narrative to one of complexity and inclusivity. Clemson is indebted to seven generations of Black people—1) enslaved people of African descent who forcibly labored on Fort Hill during the antebellum period; 2) sharecroppers, tenant farmers, and

domestics who worked on Fort Hill for wages during Reconstruction; 3) convicted laborers who helped to build Clemson; 4) wage workers and cooperative extension agents who were employed by the college; 5) musicians who performed for social event before and after desegregation; 6) students, faculty, and staff who came to Clemson after desegregation in 1963; and 7) twenty-first century activists—for its existence and success. This session will also explore how the recovery of more than 667 unmarked burials, through the use of ground penetrating radar between July 2020 and January 2021, changed the narrative about Woodland Cemetery, long described as having been founded as a segregated cemetery for white Clemson employees in 1924. You will see how technology, archeology, research, and community engagement are changing the narrative of a burial ground that may date back at least to the early 1800s.

**Rhondda Robinson Thomas** is the Calhoun Lemon Professor of Literature at Clemson University where she researches and teaches early African American literature. She has published the award-winning *Call My Name, Clemson: Documenting the Black Experience in an American University Community*, as well as *Claiming Exodus: A Cultural History of Afro-Atlantic Identity, 1770-1903*, and co-edited *The South Carolina Roots of African American Thought*. She wrote the "Locating Slave Narratives" chapter for the *Oxford Handbook of the African American Slave Narrative* and serves as the acquisitions co-editor for the African American Literature series at the Clemson University Press. Thomas is also the faculty director of the *Call My Name: African Americans in Clemson University History Project*, which received the 2020 Preserving Our Places in History Project award from the South Carolina African American Heritage Commission and which has received a Whiting Public Engagement Fellowship, grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities, SC Humanities, and Clemson's Office of the Provost, and donations through the Clemson University Foundation. Additionally, Thomas is currently serving as the Research and Community Engagement Coordinator for Clemson University's Woodland Cemetery Preservation Project.

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**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2021**



***Changing the Narrative at Two Tennessee State Parks***

**Friday, October 1, 1:00 pm – 1:45 pm**

**David Britton**

Social justice requires empathy. Provoking empathy and action from a visitor toward a resource is among the highest goals of a Tennessee state park. Our staff pursues provocation in our interpretation of non-white and subaltern populations whose stories are intertwined with traditionally white spaces. By presenting a narrative that is reflective of reality and inclusive of all historical people in the space, and then doing so in an empathetic way, we have the power to change thought patterns in visitors. Our ultimate goal is for any visitor to leave intellectually challenged and provoked into making change in their own lives. This is how public narratives change.

**David Britton** has worked in the Tennessee State Park system for 15 years. He is currently the Park Manager for Port Royal State Historic Park and Dunbar Cave State Park. David has several publications about early Tennessee history, and is currently working on a forthcoming title that explores the historical context and folklore of the Bell Witch legend of Robertson County, TN. He is pursuing an MA in Public History from Middle Tennessee State University.

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# FRIDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2021



## ***New London, Connecticut: Telling The Half That's Never Been Told*** **Friday, October 1, 1:00 pm – 2:30 pm** **Tom Schuch**

In 1717, New London, Connecticut, passed a referendum forbidding Blacks from living in, or owning a business in the town. Today, New London's City Council has a majority of people of color and women. The history of that transition, including the struggles, the victories and the defeats, has never been told. In a historic collaborative effort initiated by some of those elected officials, and supported by the city's Office of Economic Development, the Eastern Regional Tourism Board, the New London Landmarks preservation group, and various community historians and researchers, the Black Heritage History Walking Tour (utilizing the modern technology of Q Codes) will begin to change

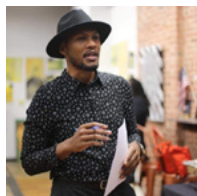
that narrative to be more reflective of New London's complete history. That changed narrative will be to the benefit of our city's children, the city's image and culture, and it will be attractive to the many tourists who share an interest in the region's history. Our panel will share the story of their experience in developing this unique collaborative effort with others who may be contemplating a similar project.

**Tom Schuch** is a New London native and a graduate of Georgetown University in Washington, D.C., with a longstanding interest in social justice issues. He retired after 38 years as executive director of a local residential facility for troubled adolescent males. He has an avid interest in history, particularly John Brown, the Civil War, with a special interest in forgotten or suppressed local history. This interest led to the discovery of several of the sites that are now part of the New London Black Heritage Walking Trail.

### **PANELISTS**



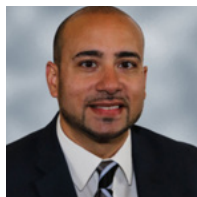
**Lonnie Braxton II** For more than 15 years, Lonnie Braxton has put together an annual Black history film festival and exhibit at the public library of New London. He was recently featured in the Lyman Allyn Museum's *Stories of Resilience: Encountering Racism* exhibit. He is a mass media speaker and lecturer on the following subjects: the US Civil Rights Movement, American Blues and its traditions, African American history, and African American cinema. Braxton is First Vice President of the Norwich Branch of the NAACP and a past president of the New London Branch of the NAACP.



**Curtis K Goodwin** was born and raised in New London, CT. Goodwin is currently a City Councilor for the City of New London, CT, where he chairs the council committee for economic development. Goodwin has been instrumental in many new initiatives and he curated a 15-marker Black history walking trail and formed a cultural commission for the city. Goodwin started his entrepreneurial journey and currently runs his creative agency. Goodwin is a 2019 CT Entrepreneur of The Year award winner.



**Laura Natusch** is executive director of New London Landmarks, where she has focused on researching inclusive histories, preventing the demolition of vulnerable buildings, and rehabilitating the longtime home of former New London NAACP President Linwood Bland, Jr. Prior to working at New London Landmarks, Natusch was an art history instructor, a harpsichord soundboard painter, a soapmaker and the City of New London's Chief Administrative Officer.



**Felix Reyes** has been the Director of Economic Development and Planning for the City of New London, CT, for the past 3 years. Felix brings over 18 years of experience in the commercial real estate, planning, design, and construction industry. He is a graduate of New London High School and went on to study architecture in Boston, MA, where he received an Associate's degree in Architectural Science. He sits on several economic and community boards and when Reyes is not working on city projects, you can find him enjoying quality time with his wife and two young daughters.



**Nicole Thomas** was born and raised in New London, Connecticut. She began studying local history at the age of 18 after moving to a home with an 1895 historic plaque on it. This began her love for local history and research. She currently works for the Hempsted Houses, a 1678 historic structure owned and operated by Connecticut Landmarks. She volunteers for New London Landmarks and is a board member for the New London County Historical Society. Thomas works for the New London Homeless Hospitality Center as a Personnel manager and an administrative financial assistant.



***Actively Listening to the ‘Echoes of the Enslaved’ in Prince George’s County, Maryland”***  
**Friday, October 1, 1:00 pm – 2:30 pm**  
**Stephanie Sperling**

Over the years, Natural and Historic Resources Division (NHRD) staff at historic house museums and the Archaeology Office made serious attempts to grapple with tangled histories of prominent and famous white enslavers and the forgotten Black enslaved. But this work was not widely acknowledged outside our division because Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) Department of Parks and Recreation historic spaces were primarily viewed as rental facilities and not places to question difficult societal norms. The Echoes of the Enslaved event series and several other recent initiatives show that hard-hitting and mind-expanding programming holds

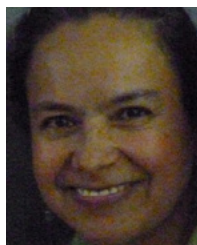
an important place in a large park system, and our influence has expanded to upper management who have expressed a new understanding of our work. NHRD staff have demonstrated that an honest reckoning with history should be front and center at historic house museums, while archaeologists have established that excavations and artifacts can provide a hands-on encounter with difficult histories. By creating brave spaces for our communities to confront their past we are able to advocate for social betterment.

**Stephanie T. Sperling** has been working as an archaeologist in the Middle Atlantic for more than 20 years and is the current President of the Council for Maryland Archeology . She holds a BA in anthropology from Pennsylvania State University and a Master’s of Applied Anthropology from the University of Maryland. Sperling has directed countless excavations on sites ranging from ancient Native camps to colonial plantations to 20th-century beach resorts, in a career that has spanned public, private, and non-profit sectors. She is dedicated to sharing the value of historic preservation and the archaeological process with the public and currently works as the Senior Archaeologist for the Department of Parks and Recreation, Prince George’s County.

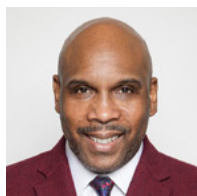
**PANELISTS**



**Kristin Montaperto** is the Chief Archaeologist for the Department of Parks and Recreation, Prince George’s County, Maryland. She has over 25 years’ experience in archaeology and cultural resource management. Her primary research focus is public outreach to diverse populations and collaborating with local communities on archaeological projects. Montaperto has extensive experience teaching anthropology to college students and providing archaeology education to professional and public audiences.



**Mary Jurkiewicz** has been involved with museum management, administration, and education for the last 25 years. As the manager of Montpelier House Museum, a National Historic Landmark of the M-NCPPC, in Laurel, Maryland, she oversees the site’s day-to-day operations, encompassing historic interpretation and educational programming, museum collections, public affairs, and historic maintenance. Jurkiewicz has a Master of Arts in Museum Education from the School of Education and Human Development, George Washington University, and a Bachelor of Fine Arts with a minor in history from Morgan State University.



**Omar Eaton-Martinez** leads the Prince George’s County Historical Resources, which include historical house museums, an aviation museum, the Black History Program and archaeological parks. He has recently worked at the Smithsonian’s National Museum of American History, National Park Service, the Office of the National Museum of the American Latino Commission, and NASA, and he also was a K-12 teacher in New York City and in Washington, D.C. He has had leading roles in racial equity organizations like Museums and Race: Transformation and Justice and Museum Hue, as well as taking part in the Museum as Site for Social Action project. Moreover, he has supported public history projects centering blackness in Puerto Rico. In 2019, he was selected to be an American Alliance of Museums Diversity, Equity, Accessibility, and Inclusion (DEAI) Senior Fellow. In this capacity he is dedicated to diversifying museum boards. Eaton-Martinez is also a gubernatorial appointee to the Maryland Lynching Truth & Reconciliation Commission. In 2020, he was elected to the Board of Directors for the Association of African American Museums.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2021

***Changing the Narrative through Living History: The Power of Inalienable Rights***

**Friday, October 1, 2:00 pm – 3:30 pm**

**Nicole Moore and Dontavius Williams**

Inalienable Rights: Living History Through the Eyes of the Enslaved has provided an enhancement to Slave Dwelling Project overnight stays for the past few years. The interpretive programming contains storytelling, skilled demonstrations and a chance for the public to engage with interpreters talking about the lives of enslaved African Americans. Through these interactions, the interpretive team has been able to change the perception of the enslaved community by showing the skills of these men and women and talking about their lives. Visitors have found themselves finding more in common with the enslaved community than white slave owners, and looking for more ways to engage with the narratives presented. This presentation will highlight the experiences from members of the interpretation team, lessons learned and the importance of interpretation when teaching about enslavement and the enslaved community.

**Nicole A. Moore** is a public historian and consultant with more than 10 years of museum experience, with her primary focus around the interpretation of enslavement at historic sites and museums. She has facilitated workshops and training sessions on best practices when interpreting slavery and how race and identity impact visitor learning at historic sites across the Southeast. She is an active member of Inalienable Rights, the living history arm of the Slave Dwelling Project, and serves on the organization's Board of Directors as the Board Secretary. Nicole is also on the Board of Directors for the National Council on Public History, serving on the Executive Committee.

Nicole is a published author, contributing chapters to *Interpreting Slavery for Museums and Historic Sites*, *Interpreting the Civil War for Museums and Historic Sites* and the forthcoming, *Radical Roots: Public History and Social Justice Activism*. Nicole has undergraduate and graduate degrees from the University of North Carolina Charlotte.

**Dontavius Williams** is the sole proprietor of The Chronicles of Adam. As a storyteller, Williams has been trained as a Certified Interpretive Guide and has the skills in the art of interpreting history through various means. Dontavius has been in the field of public history and storytelling for over 10 years and now travels the country interpreting slavery at various historic sites, schools, and churches and community events.

Dontavius uses historical documents and primary sources to paint a picture with words and live action to bring to life the life of the enslaved community during the times of slavery. The first-person historical interpretation of an enslaved man by the name of Adam consists of various accounts, historical facts, and life lessons for viewers of any age to enjoy. Dontavius believes in the concept of Sankofa. This is the belief that we must go back to our roots in order to move forward. This belief is based on an African proverb that states "It is not wrong to go back for that which you have forgotten." Therefore, through his interpretation, Dontavius desires to inspire all who experience it to feel moved to learn more about their heritage and teach others.



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## FRIDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2021



### ***Saying Their Names: Interpreting Slavery and Shifting the Narrative at 19th Century Historic Sites in Louisville, Kentucky***

**Friday, October 1, 2:00 pm – 3:30 pm**

**Teresa Lee, Kaitlyn Tisdale, Shirley Harmon, and Kathy Nichols**

This session engages the conference theme by exploring innovative ways that four 19th-century historic sites in Louisville, Kentucky, have chosen to acknowledge the painful past of our sites as places of enslavement and tell the stories of the enslaved. These historic sites—Farmington Historic Plantation; Historic Locust Grove; Oxmoor Farm Foundation; and Riverside, the Farnsley-Moremén Landing—each with its own unique historical perspective-- have banded together for a multi-year project to provide programming that collectively confronts the historical narrative around slavery and informs the modern efforts for social justice locally and beyond. In forming the Louisville Coalition on the History of the Enslaved, these historic sites engage members of the Louisville community and beyond in conversations about the history and legacy of enslavement, making connections between the past and the present to further understanding and commitment to social change.



**Teresa Lee** is the Historic Site Supervisor at Riverside, the Farnsley-Moremén Landing. She has held that position for over three years. Previously she was the Visitor's Services Coordinator and Educator at the Portland Museum (Louisville, KY). She has degrees in history, anthropology, and gender studies. Riverside has an award-winning field trip program that allows approximately 2,500 students per year to be part of the process of doing history. Along with the Kentucky Archaeological Survey, students learn about the investigative process of history and evidence-based interpretation through a series of hands-on activities. Teresa has been part of the in-depth analysis of how slavery is interpreted at Riverside, as well as exhibit design, and program development.



**Kaitlyn Tisdale**, a Louisville, Kentucky native, is the Director of Education and Family Programs at Historic Locust Grove. Kaitlyn has held positions at a variety of historic sites in Kentucky and Indiana including, Historic Locust Grove, the Culbertson Mansion, Ashland, the Henry Clay Estate, and Mammoth Cave National Park. Kaitlyn attended the University of Kentucky from 2008-2012, where she obtained her Bachelor of Arts in History. She then attended Western Kentucky University from 2012-2014 in which she received her master's degree in Historic Preservation.



**Shirley Harmon** manages the day-to-day operation of the Historic Oxmoor Farm, the Bullitt family home since 1787. Shirley has 22 years' experience in the field of archives and historic home management. During her college years she worked as a docent at Farmington Historic Home and a fact checker for the Louisville Encyclopedia. In 2009 she was appointed a member of the Lincoln Bicentennial Committee, which planned events in the Louisville area for the celebration of Lincoln's 200th birthday. She worked at the Filson Historical Society from 1999-2006 and again from 2011-2012 where her main focus was cataloging the Bullitt Family Papers. She is a member of Phi Alpha Theta, The Society of American Archivists, American Association of State and Local History, the Interpretations Committee for Farmington Historic Home, and the Oxmoor Preservation Committee. Shirley earned her bachelor's degree in History at Xavier University, and her master's degree in History at the University of Louisville.

**Kathy Nichols** is Executive Director of Farmington Historic Plantation in Louisville, Kentucky and, in 2006, designed its award-winning interpretation of plantation slavery in the Commonwealth. Kathy graduated from Indiana University Southeast and attended the IUPUI graduate program in Public History. She worked on Kentucky plantation history sites for twelve years including Farmington and Riverside, the Farnsley-Moremén Landing. After an eight-year tenure as Executive Director of the Heritage Society of New Braunfels in Texas she returned to Farmington in 2018. Kathy is proud to be a founding member of the Louisville Coalition on the History of the Enslaved and believes this collaboration strengthens each of the contributing organizations' interpretation, outreach, and influence.



FRIDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2021



***Twist and Shout': Turning Memorials of Slavery from Cancellation to Preservation and Narrations of Power!***

**Friday, October 1, 2:00 – 2:45 pm**

**Patricia Ann West**

This presentation addresses the issue of cancel culture, authority, and agency. Who is making the calls? Stop the cancellations! Let that monument stand! Keep that street name! In this session, Patricia West will represent her ancestors and strongly argue for an opportunity to retell America's falsehoods about slavery from the perspective of slave descendants and victims of the shameful institution of slavery. As an educator, she will share pedagogical tools for reading and writing activities to take this cause to the classroom. She will draw from headlines and examples in her local and ancestral communities, which continue to cry out incidents of the cancel culture that is typical of American hypocrisy. Enslave a people, cancel their culture. If brick and mortar are broken up, if monuments are pulled down, if books are pulled from the shelves, what happens when it is West's turn to tell the story? Now is the time for that turn of the narrative. It should have happened long before this pandemic of assault on Black lives. Through research, writing, and photography, today's scholars and youth can find ways to preserve the true narratives and to move old narrators and their falsehoods out of the way! It is time to show cause for narrations of power!

**Patricia Ann West** is Assistant Professor of English at the historic HBCU Savannah State University (SSU) where she specializes in African-American literature and workshop-based composition strategies which set out to turnover narratives and the methods in which we compose truths. Her teaching, research, and writing interests focus on literature, genealogy, Gullah Geechee culture, and African-American cemetery preservation following studies at Savannah State, Georgia Southern, and doctoral candidacy at Indiana University of Pennsylvania (IUP). Prof. West's presentations include the National Writing Project, Teaching Abroad in Belize, Southern Humanities Council, Southern Association of Canadian Studies, and The Slave Dwelling Project, 2015 and 2018 with the University of Virginia Universities Studying Slavery Symposium. Her publications include book chapters, reviews, news articles, and most recently her collection *Still Water Words: Poems and Stories from Ancestral Places* (2020) and an article entitled "Mystery, Mayhem, and Madness: Getting Students to Read and Respond to Crazy American Literary Texts" in the Fall 2020 issue of *Teaching American Literature: A Journal of Theory and Practice*. In February 2021, Prof. West was a featured workshop presenter and reader for the West Chester Poetry Center's Virtual Conference. She was born in Savannah, GA as a descendant of her ancestors who dwelt along the roadways and waterways of Charleston County (Parker's Ferry) and Bellinger Hill (Beaufort/Jasper County), Prof. West is devoted to keeping their voices alive through scholarship and family preservation.

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## FRIDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2021



***Revisiting the Tolson's Chapel Community:  
Conversations from Past to Present - Freedom Episode***  
**Friday, October 1, 2:00 pm – 3:30 pm**  
**Edith B. Wallace**

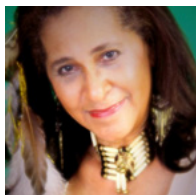
The Friends of Tolson's Chapel in Sharpsburg, Maryland, presents the "Freedom" episode from their experiential learning series entitled "Revisiting the Tolson's Chapel Community: Conversations from Past to Present." Tolson's Chapel and School is a National Historic Landmark, significant for its history as a rural African American community institution, as both church and school, built during America's fraught post-Civil War period of Reconstruction. While the building itself is a remarkable reminder of the power of community institutions in difficult times, it is the stories of the men and women who peopled that historic community that speak most clearly to us today. Their stories illuminate their resilience and determination to thrive even as they faced newly-achieved freedom after a lifetime of enslavement – a freedom fraught with discrimination in employment and where they could live, with limited land ownership opportunities, restricted political and social interactions, and the threat of physical violence. These are social justice issues African Americans still confront today in the 21st century. Thus, the past informs the present, and it is hoped these conversations with history will guide us toward a future free of injustice and that celebrates the diverse citizens of the United States.

**Edith B. Wallace** is immediate past-president of the Friends of Tolson's Chapel in Sharpsburg, Maryland. Wallace has a Master of Arts degree in historic preservation from Goucher College in Baltimore, Maryland, where she received the 2003 Hiram McCullough Award for her thesis on preserving African American historic resources in rural Washington County. She received her Bachelor of Arts degree in anthropology from the University of Delaware and a Certificate in Historic Preservation from Shepherd College, Shepherdstown, West Virginia. Wallace led historical research and historic context development services for Paula S. Reed and Associates, Inc. in Hagerstown, Maryland, from 1998 through 2018. She is currently working as an independent historian with expertise in social and architectural historic research and writing.

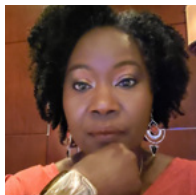
### PANELISTS



**Emilie Amt, Ph.D** is an emeritus professor at Hood College in Frederick, Maryland, and an award-winning writer of African American history. Her forthcoming book about African American experiences of the Battle of Antietam will be published in summer 2022 by The History Press. She is also working on a book about slavery in western Maryland. She blogs at [www.emilieamt.com](http://www.emilieamt.com). Amt is a current member of the Friends of Tolson's Chapel Board of Directors.



**ZSun-nee Miller-Matema**, a Friends of Tolson's Chapel board member and chair of the Black Reference Response Committee, is a retired world history instructor and CEO of AFRIASIA: The Intercultural Education Exchange. She is a professional reenactor, former member of the Capitol Ballet Guild, and a lifelong scholar, historian, former XM Satellite radio talk show host, and director of transformational theater experiences.



**Bridgett Jones Smith** is a community educator and advocate. She is Vice President of the board of directors of the Friends of Tolson's Chapel. Jones Smith first learned of Tolson's Chapel over a decade ago when she was leading a group of young artists on an exploration of African American cemetery art. She is passionate about learning and sharing the accurate history of the African diaspora. Over the years she has contributed to her various communities and received several awards from community organizations, including the NAACP and YMCA.



**Brenda Parker** is a self-titled historian and character interpreter at George Washington's Mount Vernon. There she occupies the newly designed title of African American Interpretation and Special Projects Coordinator. She uses her almost 17 years of employment with the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association MVLVA to the benefit of visitors' experience and the education of guests. She works closely with the descendant community, history interpreters, education, archaeology, historic trades and others invested in assuring that the lives of the enslaved community at Mount Vernon are more inclusively and accurately portrayed.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2021



***Slave Heritage Tourism in the United States :  
Understanding the Lives of the Slaves who Lived and Worked in the Huguenot Colonies***  
**Friday, October 1, 2:00 pm – 2:45 pm**  
**Florence Gasparini**

This presentation focuses on the preservation of Huguenot heritage in the states of Florida, South Carolina and New York. The Huguenot were French Protestants who were not allowed to practice their religion in the kingdom of France. Some of these French settlers who came to America owned slaves, which can be seen as a paradox: a group of people who were themselves persecuted and had to flee their own country chose to buy other human beings and use them as a workforce. Some of the buildings and colonial houses from the Huguenot colonies have been turned into museums since the 20th century. Florence Gasparini's work aims at studying the way the narratives of these enslaved people are told to visitors in the present day. She will examine the evolution of these narratives, how this type of "colonial tourism" is now on the rise, and why it is so appealing to tourists. Her goal is to explain how slave heritage tourism is now part of the tourism industry in the United States, through the study of different types of historic sites.

**Florence Gasparini** is a PhD student from the University Paris, 8 Saint Denis. She received a master's degree in English language from the University of Paris, 10 Nanterre, and a master's degree in American history from the University of Paris, 8 Saint Denis. Her thesis focuses on the preservation of the Huguenot heritage in the United States. She also works on colonial tourism. She spent two years teaching in Cayenne, French Guiana. She has published two articles in a collective book called *Figure Huguenots : de l'histoire à la mémoire* (2020).

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## FRIDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2021



### ***Unforgotten: The Shelton Family Settlement at Possum Trot***

**Friday, October 1, 2:00 pm – 3:30 pm**

**Karen Stewart-Ross and Angela R. James**

Possum Trot is considered the “cradle” of Berry College in Rome, Georgia and yet, for over 60 years, the Shelton family’s historical presence at the site was relatively unknown to many despite the presence of the Shelton family’s cemetery behind the Possum Trot Church. Hardy and Mary Shelton, formerly enslaved, established the homestead in 1874, during Reconstruction. Between 1874 and the early 1920s, the Shelton family would eventually own over 600 acres of land, including land in what is now known as Possum Trot. After connecting through DNA testing, in 2016, descendants of Hardy and Mary, Mitchell Shelton, Angela James, and Karen Stewart-Ross, met in Rome to visit the former settlement, which had been kept alive through family oral history. It was then decided that through research and the further investigation of DNA connections, the relatives would work to honor their family’s historical presence at Possum Trot and beyond. In 2021, Berry College, in collaboration with the Shelton family, approved a historical marker that acknowledges and pays homage to the family’s presence at the site. While the acquisition of a historical marker is indeed an accomplishment, there’s more work to be done and the family is working with Berry College to ensure that the Shelton family’s historic settlement is not forgotten.



**Karen Stewart-Ross** is an urban educator and a contributing author to the book *Slavery’s Descendants: Shared Legacies of Race and Reconciliation* (Rutgers, 2019). She has also served as an interview producer for a metropolitan D.C. radio show geared towards empowering women. In 2015, Stewart-Ross traced part of her maternal family’s ancestral roots to Lincolnton, North Carolina, and Rome, Georgia, including a place called Cathey Gap, where her ancestors were enslaved. Since 2015, through DNA analysis and research, she has been helping to reconnect descendants of her Rome, Georgia, family after over 100 years of separation. Stewart-Ross is also a lead researcher for the Shelton Family Settlement at Possum Trot Project, which focuses on a thriving settlement now known as Possum Trot on the campus of Berry College. Possum Trot was founded in the 1870s by her 4th great-grandparents, Hardy and Mary Shelton. A graduate of both Howard University and Virginia Commonwealth University and the grandniece of Texas blues artist Edwin Goodwin “Buster” Pickens, Stewart-Ross is inspired by stories of faith, hope, healing and determination

**Angela R. James** resides in Detroit, Michigan, and is retired from the Detroit Police Department. She is active in several women’s organizations and a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated. She is on the board of the Police and Fire Retirement System of the City of Detroit. James has one daughter and a grandson with whom she spends most of her time. She is a novice genealogical researcher, and in 2015, through 23andMe and Ancestry DNA testing results, she was able to connect with family and learn the identity and fate of some of her ancestors. James also serves as a lead representative of the Shelton Family Settlement at Possum Trot, a settlement now known as Possum Trot, on the campus of Berry College. Possum Trot was founded by her third great-grandparents in the 1870s during Reconstruction.

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## SATURDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2021



### KEYNOTE SPEAKER

*Where I am learning how to belong:*

*A Contemporary Look at the Captive African Household*

Saturday, October 2, 9:00 am

Whitney Battle-Baptiste

**Whitney Battle-Baptiste** is currently a Professor in the Department of Anthropology and Director of the W. E. B. Du Bois Center, both at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. A native of the Bronx, New York, Battle-Baptiste is a scholar and activist who sees the classroom and the campus as a space to engage contemporary issues with a sensibility of the past. Her academic training is in history and historical archaeology. Her research critically engages the interconnectedness of race, gender, class, and sexuality through an archaeological lens. Her research sites include Andrew Jackson's Hermitage Plantation; the Abiel Smith School on Beacon Hill in Boston; the W. E. B. Du Bois Homesite (or House of the Black Burghardts) in Great Barrington, MA; and a community-based heritage site at Millars Plantation, on the Bahamian island of Eleuthera. Her books include *Black Feminist Archaeology* (2011), which outlined the basic tenets of Black feminist thought and research for archaeologists and demonstrated how these methods can be used in contemporary archaeological practice; and *W. E. B. Du Bois's Data Portraits: Visualizing Black America* (2018), co-edited with Britt Rusert. Her current research is focused on the material dimensions of anti-Black racism and state-sanctioned violence.

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**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2021**



***Visualizing Sites in the ‘City Too Busy to Hate’: Atlanta Case Studies in Outreach and Digital Interpretation***

**Saturday, October 2, 10:00 am –10:45 am**

**Danielle S. Willkens**

This presentation will feature work on three significant but rapidly deteriorating sites in Atlanta related to the ongoing struggle for civil rights: the English Avenue Elementary School (1911), St. Mark’s AME (1938), and Paschal’s Motor Hotel and Restaurant (1957). These sites are abandoned and two are severely structurally compromised, and although an array of plans in the last decade have proposed restoration and adaptive reuse projects, the immediate future of these sites is uncertain. Therefore, this project will leverage an existing digital documentation and research initiative to build interactive heritage BIM models of the sites to be hosted on a public-facing website, by using student-piloted workflows for leveraging rich and complex point clouds into tools for recording; safely studying perilous historic structures; amalgamating archival content to enliven history; and actively using digital documentation for preservation planning and adaptive reuse efforts. These initiatives seek to establish a precedent for future applications of construction and survey technologies in historic documentation, preservation planning, and interactive public history initiatives. These digital products can effectively expose complex, complicated histories to new audiences beyond the site’s geographical boundaries in a more engaging multi-layered interpretation format.

**Danielle S. Willkens**, Assoc. AIA, FRSA, LEED AP BD+C, is an assistant professor at Georgia Institute of Technology’s School of Architecture, where she teaches architectural history, design studios, and a research seminar focused on race, space, and architecture in the United States. Willkens is a practicing designer, researcher, and FAA Certified Remote Pilot who is interested in bringing architectural engagement to diverse audiences through interactive projects. Her experiences in practice and research include design/build projects, public installations, and on-site investigations as well as extensive archival work in several countries. As an avid photographer and illustrator, her work has been recognized in the American Institute of Architects National Photography Competition and she has contributed graphics to several exhibitions and publications. She was the 2015 recipient of the Society of Architectural Historians’ H. Allen Brooks Travelling Fellowship and her research into transatlantic design exchange has been supported by the Sir John Soane’s Museum Foundation, the International Center for Jefferson Studies, and an American Philosophical Society Franklin Research Grant. She is currently part of a multidisciplinary team working to document and digitally reconstruct the area of significance related to “Bloody Sunday” in Selma, Alabama, and the March to Montgomery. Her team, with members from Auburn University, was awarded a 2018 African American Civil Rights Grant to create a Historic Structures Report of the Edmund Pettus Bridge. She is on the board of trustees for the Atlanta Preservation Center, and the education committee of the Southeast Chapter for the Institute of Classical Architecture and Art. She holds a PhD in Architectural History & Theory from the Bartlett School of Architecture, an M.Phil in Architectural History & Theory from Cambridge University, a M.Arch and BS in Architecture from the University of Virginia, and a Graduate Certificate in Historic Preservation from the Savannah College of Art and Design.

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## SATURDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2021



*He knew how they came there:*

*Using archives to learn about enslaved people at the Salem Witch House*

Saturday, October 2, 10:30 am – 11:15 am

**Sara Harwood**

The Witch House (c. 1675), a historic house museum in Salem, Massachusetts, receives thousands of visitors annually because of its ties to the Salem witchcraft trials. Visitors, excited to see the home of witchcraft trial judge Jonathan Corwin, rarely ask about slavery, except in connection with Tituba, an enslaved woman who was the first person accused of witchcraft during the 1692 witchcraft episode, but who never visited the mansion and had no connection to the Corwin family. However, years before the witchcraft trials, Judge Corwin had become an enslaver through marriage. Sancho, the man enslaved by Corwin, became the subject not only of a lawsuit but also of a civil court case. Because Sancho appears in court records as well as Corwin's private account books, historians can piece together a narrative of his life that rounds out the white-centered story told at the Witch House. For a few months in 2010, the museum displayed an exhibit by a graduate student referring to Sancho, but otherwise, he is not mentioned on the official tour. This paper, written by a former docent of the museum, will present a narrative about Sancho's life, arguing that interpretation at the Witch House should reflect that Corwin was an enslaver and include information about Sancho.

**Sara Harwood** is a Lecturer of English at Lander University in Greenwood, SC. She earned her PhD in English with a focus on American literature from Georgia State University. Her dissertation focused on early American literature, history, and religion. She contributed a chapter about the interpretation of slavery at Bulloch Hall in Roswell, GA, to *Public Memory, Race, and Heritage Tourism in Early America*, which will be published by Routledge this year. Her interest in public memory, heritage preservation, and place-based pedagogy was sparked when she worked at the Witch House in Salem, MA, while earning her undergraduate degree in history.

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## SATURDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2021



***Correcting the Narrative in the Birthplace of America -  
Williamsburg, Jamestown and Yorktown, Virginia***  
**Saturday, October 2, 10:30 am – 11:15 am**  
**Laura Hill**

The Historic Triangle of Virginia is a beautiful historic community that proudly holds the distinction of being the birthplace of America. Yet, below the surface, the community is the place where seeds of racism were planted 400 years ago. Today our nation is choking on the bitter fruit these seeds produced. This presentation will feature 3 local initiatives that are changing the narrative of the “Birthplace of America” - Williamsburg, Jamestown and Yorktown, Virginia.

**Laura Hill**, a writer, community leader and organizer, is the Founder/Director of Virginia’s Historic Triangle affiliate group of Coming to the Table, a national racial reconciliation organization. She is the founder and lead organizer of “Heal Williamsburg/Heal the Nation” and co-chairs Coming to the Table’s National Reparations Working Group. Laura serves on the City of Williamsburg’s Truth and Reconciliation Committee and Committee on Racial Equity, and the Racial Trauma Committee of the Greater Williamsburg Trauma Informed Community Network (GW-TICN). A St. Mary’s County, Maryland native, she holds a Bachelor’s of Arts degree in Journalism/ Mass Communications from Hampton University. Her articles on racial issues have been published nationwide.



**Fred Liggio** joined the Coming to the Table - Historic Triangle leadership team in 2020. A certified trauma professional, he serves as a facilitator and presenter for racial trauma programming. He also serves on the City of Williamsburg’s Committee on Racial Equity and the Racial Trauma Committee of the Greater Williamsburg Trauma-Informed Community Network. Fred was instrumental in working with Coming to the Table - Historic Triangle’s Founder/Director, Laura Hill, and Williamsburg City leaders to create a resolution for the first ever Williamsburg Truth and Reconciliation Committee.

Fred is the founder and President of 3e Restoration Inc., a local non-profit organization that focuses on breaking the cycle of homelessness and extreme poverty through hospitality and systemic changes. He authored the book, *Racialized Cultural Systems, Social Displacement and Hospitality*. For more than 10 years he has served as one of the pastors of Williamsburg Christian Church.

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## Meet the People that Make the Slave Dwelling Project Possible

- **Joseph McGill, Jr.** is a history consultant for Magnolia Plantation in Charleston, South Carolina, and the founder and director of The Slave Dwelling Project. Previously, as a field officer for the National Trust for Historic Preservation, Mr. McGill worked to revitalize the Sweet Auburn commercial district in Atlanta, Georgia, and to develop a management plan for the Mississippi Delta National Heritage Area. He is a former executive director of the African American Museum in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, and a former director of history and culture at Penn Center, St. Helena Island, South Carolina. He has also served as a National Park Service park ranger at Fort Sumter National Monument in Charleston.
- **Elon Cook Lee** is a public historian, educator, curator, museum activist, and walking-tour guide who recently joined the National Trust for Historic Preservation as Director of Interpretation and Education. Before coming to the National Trust she received her master's degree in Public Humanities and the Fellowship for the Study of the Public History of Slavery at Brown University. She has taught undergraduate courses on slavery, public history, historic preservation, restituting stolen art, and racial reconciliation work at the Rhode Island School of Design (RISD). Ms. Cook is a recipient of the 2018–2020 Andrew W. Mellon Faculty Fellowship in the RISD Museum's Costumes and Textiles Department.
- **Angela Dickey**, a retired United States diplomat, is a peace-builder and advocate for racial and environmental justice. In addition to her work for the Slave Dwelling Project, she serves on the board of DACOR, an organization of foreign affairs professionals, and its sister organization, the DACOR Bacon House Foundation, which operates a historic house museum in Washington, DC. Ms. Dickey is also an active member of Coming to the Table and the NAACP.
- **Katherine Haskel** is a non-profit professional, passionate about making a positive impact in the community. In addition to her work in the museum field, she has taught history courses at the collegiate level as well as social studies courses at the elementary and secondary levels. Ms. Haskel has served the city of Dallas (Texas) as a Landmark Commissioner and was a member of the Leadership Dallas Class of 2020. She holds a master's degree in Public History: Museum Studies from Middle Tennessee State University; a bachelor's degree in Interdisciplinary Studies: Social Sciences from Tennessee State University; and an associate's degree in Business Administration: Marketing Management from Jones County Junior College in Ellisville, Mississippi. She is currently pursuing an MBA at the University of North Texas in Dallas.
- **Nicole A. Moore** is a public historian with 10 years' experience interpreting the lives of the enslaved. She has facilitated workshops on best practices around the interpretation of slavery and has conducted training sessions at historic sites across the Southeast. Ms. Moore serves on the board of directors for the National Council on Public History and is an active member of the American Association for State and Local History. Her publications include chapters in *Interpreting Slavery and Interpreting the Civil War for Museums & Historic Sites* as well as the forthcoming *Radical Roots: Civic Engagement, Public History and a Tradition of Social Justice Activism*. Ms. Moore is currently director of education at the National Center for Civil and Human Rights in Atlanta, Georgia.
- **Frederick Murphy** is the founder of History Before Us, LLC, a project centered on capturing, preserving and advocating influential history. His first film, the award-winning *The American South as We Know It*, explores the lives of survivors of Jim Crow—the courageous individuals who didn't make the headlines. His second documentary, *The Other Side of the Coin: Race, Generations & Reconciliation*, was released on September 2, 2020. A collection of experiences and thoughts addressing the complexities of race in America, the film asks, "How do we reconcile for the sake of future generations and humanity?" Mr. Murphy is a Licensed Clinical Mental Health Counselor who finds joy in helping people achieve and retain an optimum level of functioning by focusing on their holistic health. He has a master's degree in Transformative Leadership and serves on the board of the James K. Polk historic site in Pineville, North Carolina.
- **Leslie Stainton** teaches at the University of Michigan Residential College and is the author of numerous essays and articles as well as two nonfiction books, *Lorca: A Dream of Life* and *Staging Ground: An American Theater and Its Ghosts*. She is currently at work on a book about her slaveholding ancestors, the Scarletts of Georgia. Ms. Stainton is a past board member of Coming to the Table and a founding member of the Social Justice Ministry at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in Ann Arbor, Michigan.
- **Tanya Timmons**, treasurer of the Slave Dwelling Project, has a love for history and believes strongly that if you don't know your past, you can't appreciate your future. In addition to her responsibilities with SDP, Tanya serves as PTSA treasurer for Ashley Ridge High School (Summerville, SC) and is a member of the Dorchester District 2 Communication Committee; she also works with the South Carolina AAU Football Organization. An active member of the Planner Community, Ms. Timmons serves as the South Carolina Chapter Vice President of Black Women Who Plan and Create. She is a past project manager for Advanced Technology International and has supported various Department of Defense programs, from program management activities to configuration, management and financial analysis and tracking. She is married with two children and a fur baby.
- **Jon Williams** holds a BA in history from Wake Forest University, an MS in history (Secondary Education) from North Carolina A&T State University, and a post-master's certificate for school administration from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. A former high school social studies teacher, Mr. Williams is currently principal of McMichael High School in Mayodan, North Carolina. Previously he served as an assistant principal at Walkertown High School and William Ellis Middle School. He was named the McMichael High School Teacher of the Year for 2012-2013 and is a past recipient of the Marcellus Waddill Excellence in Teaching Award from Wake Forest University. On five different occasions, Mr. Williams has organized and facilitated Slave Dwelling Project programs and overnight stays for schools with which he is affiliated. He serves on the board of the Slave Dwelling Project so that the story of the people from the "small house" behind the "big house" can finally be told.