

Presenters

Dr. Cheryl LaRoche serves as Vice Chair, Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture. Dr. LaRoche has worked as a historical and archaeological consultant for the United States National Forest Service, Shawnee National Forest Service, Joseph Holston Underground Railroad Art Project, and the National Park Service.

James S. Price is a historian, blogger, and educator. A native of Pittsburgh, PA, he has dedicated his life to the study of the American Civil War and has worked at many Civil War museums and battlefields. He is the author of *The Battle of New Market Heights: Freedom Will Be Theirs by the Sword*.

Mark Neely, Jr. the McCabe Greer Professor of Civil War History at Pennsylvania State University. He is recognized as one of the country's leading Lincoln scholars. In 1991 he was awarded the Pulitzer Prize for his book, *The Fate of Liberty: Abraham Lincoln and Civil Liberties*.

Edna Greene Medford is Director of the History Department at Howard University. She is a leading authority on the Civil War era and has appeared as a commentator on C - Span, The History Channel and PBS. She is the co- author of *The Emancipation Proclamation: Three Views*.

Edie Wallace, President of the Friends of Tolson's Chapel, has a Masters of Arts degree in Historic Preservation from Goucher College, where she received the 2003 Hiram McCullough Award for her thesis on preserving African-American historic resources in rural Washington County.

This program is made possible by a grant from the Heart of the Civil War Heritage Area, a certified heritage area of the Maryland Heritage Area Authority; with additional funds from the Hagerstown-Washington County Convention & Visitors Bureau and the Western Maryland Interpretive Association.



Value the sacrifice & serenity that is

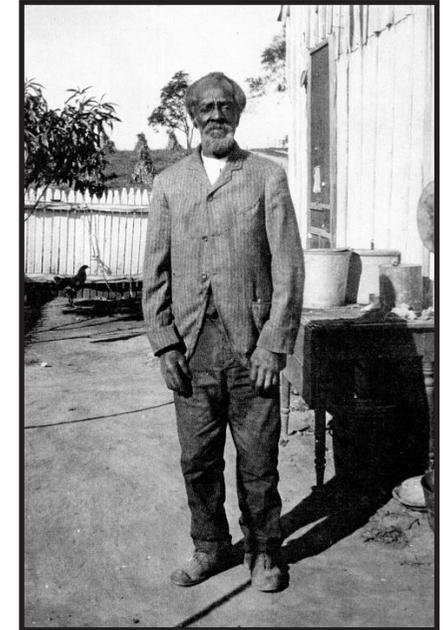
Antietam



Western Maryland Interpretive Association



The Dignity of Freedom: Pathways Through The Civil War and Beyond



Jeremiah C. Summers, 1924

Symposium
April 28, 2012
Antietam National
Battlefield

The Friends of Tolson's Chapel and Antietam National Battlefield are collaborating on a symposium to be held at Antietam National Battlefield. The Dignity of Freedom: Pathways Through the Civil War and Beyond, will be part of the 2012 observance of the 150th anniversary year of the Battle of Antietam. The series of five speakers will begin with a view of African-American slavery and emancipation from a national perspective and the border state experience, highlight the significance of the Battle of Antietam and the Emancipation Proclamation, USCT participation in the Civil War, and finally put a human face to it all with the Civil War and Reconstruction-era experiences of the African-American congregation of Tolson's Chapel in Sharpsburg.

Registration

Name:

Phone Number:

Email Address:

Total cost for symposium and lunch is \$15.00 (\$11.00 for box lunch and \$4.00 park entry fee). If a lunch is not requested, the \$4.00 park entry fee can be paid the day of the event, but pre-registration is still required. Please make checks out to WMIA. Contact tolsons.chapel@gmail.com with questions. Deadline is April 15, 2012: Mail registration to:

Friends of Tolson's Chapel
P.O. Box 162
Sharpsburg, MD 21782

Box Lunch (Circle One Meal and One Drink)
Roast Beef Ham & Cheese Turkey Vegetarian
Pepsi Diet Pepsi

Scheduled Talks

The symposium is from 9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. at the Antietam National Battlefield Visitor Center Theater.

Keynote Address by Dr. Cheryl LaRoche "Balancing Freedom"

From the American Revolution to the end of the Civil War, African Americans ceaselessly pushed the nation to honor its highest ideals: freedom, justice, liberty, equality, and democracy. When a nation reluctant to grant liberty greeted them during the War for Independence, Blacks sided with the British. During the years between wars, the nation structured itself around a "balance principle." Balancing slave states with free states for admission to the Union as the nation grew, Congress signaled its willingness to not only condone slavery but to facilitate its expansion. The enslaved population responded by assuming responsibility for its own freedom and either escaped slavery or purchased freedom. The preliminary Emancipation Proclamation continued the practice of wielding the promise of freedom while perpetuating slavery. This address explores the African American unrelenting march toward freedom, culminating with the USCT involvement in the Civil War that finally, violently put an end to the practice.

"Reconstruction and the Demise of Constitutional Racism" by Mark Neely, Jr.

On the eve of the Civil War, states in the West began to alter their constitutions to exclude African Americans from settling in their states. The Emancipation Proclamation, the 13th Amendment, and events in Reconstruction halted this little known development.

"A Liberating Army:" United States Colored Troops in the American Civil War, 1862-1867 by James Price

On May 22, 1863 a remarkable turn of events happened in American history – the Federal Government established the Bureau of Colored Troops to welcome African Americans into the armed service of the United States Military. Their record is one of honor, determination, and sacrifice.

"Freedom Without Consent: The District of Columbia Emancipation Act"

by Edna Greene Medford

This talk will focus on the fact that District residents did not have a say in the emancipation of their slaves. Their responses to the emancipation bill and to eventual freedom will be examined. President Abraham Lincoln's response to the bill will also be discussed.

"The Dignity of Free Men": The Story of Tolson's Chapel in Sharpsburg by Edie Wallace

This presentation will trace the lives of the men and women of Tolson's Chapel, beginning in the years prior to and during the Civil War, and as the building served the community as a church beginning in 1866, Freedmen's Bureau school from 1868 to 1870, as county Colored School #4 from 1871 to 1899, and continued its spiritual services through the next century until 1996.

Tour of Tolson's Chapel with Edie Wallace

Meet at Tolson's Chapel in Sharpsburg for a tour of the structure with Ms. Wallace.