

The Program in African American History

The Program in African American History brings together scholars and interested members of the public to explore and discuss every aspect of the experience of people of African descent in the Americas from the beginnings of European colonization through 1900. For more than forty years, the Library Company's African Americana Collection (over 13,000 titles and almost 1,000 graphics, and growing) has helped nurture and sustain rich scholarship that has added dramatically to our knowledge and understanding of that experience—and public exhibitions, lectures, and programs have sought to involve the broadest possible audience.

With the creation of the Program in African American History in 2007 with the generous support of the Albert M. Greenfield Foundation, the Library Company expanded fellowships, conferences, exhibitions, publications, public programming, teacher training, and acquisitions to help achieve the full potential represented by our holdings in this area. We welcome the widest public participation in these activities.

The Library Company gratefully acknowledges the generous support of the Albert M. Greenfield Foundation, the Walter J. Miller Trust, the Independence Foundation, and the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

About the Library Company

The Library Company of Philadelphia is an independent research library concentrating on American society and culture from the 17th through the 19th centuries. Free and open to the public, the Library Company houses an extensive non-circulating collection of rare books, manuscripts, broadsides, ephemera, prints, photographs, and works of art. The mission of the Library Company is to preserve, interpret, make available, and augment the valuable materials within its care. We serve a diverse constituency throughout Philadelphia and the nation, offering comprehensive reader services, an internationally renowned fellowship program, online catalogs, and regular exhibitions and public programs.

Library Company of Philadelphia
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2013 Juneteenth Seminar

“African American Women
in the Era of Emancipation”
June 21, 2013



Reception, 4:30 p.m.

Panel, 5:00 p.m.

Daina Ramey Berry, University of Texas, Austin

“‘Soldiers Was Around Me Very Thick’: Enslaved Women in the 1860s”

Lois Brown, Wesleyan University

“‘Ah, what a day I’ve had!’: The Storied Missions of Harriet Tubman, Susie King Taylor, and Charlotte Forten in the Civil War South”

Due to unforeseen circumstances, Dr. Brown was not able to travel to Philadelphia, so her paper will be presented by L’Merchie Frazier.

L’Merchie Frazier, Museum of African-American History, Boston/Nantucket

Thavolia Glymph, Duke University

“Enslaved Women as Refugees in the Civil War”

Moderator: Erica Armstrong Dunbar, Director of the Program in African American History and Associate Professor of Black American Studies and History at the University of Delaware

Panelist Biographies

Daina Ramey Berry is Associate Professor of History and African American Studies at the University of Texas, Austin. Her research interests include 19th century American history, comparative slavery, and Southern history, with a particular

emphasis on the role of gender, labor, family, and economy among the enslaved. Dr. Berry is the author of *Swing the Sickle for the Harvest is Ripe: Gender and Slavery in Antebellum Georgia* (University of Illinois Press, 2007) and a contributing coeditor of *Slavery and Freedom in Savannah* (University of Georgia Press, 2013).

Lois Brown is Class of 1958 Distinguished Professor at Wesleyan University in the African American Studies Program and the Department of English. A literary historian of 19-century African American and American literature and culture, Dr. Brown is the author of *Pauline Elizabeth Hopkins: Black Daughter of the Revolution* (University of North Carolina Press, 2008) and *The Encyclopedia of the Harlem Literary Renaissance* (Infobase Publishing, 2006), and the editor of Susan Paul’s 1835 *Memoir of James Jackson, the Attentive and Obedient Scholar* (Harvard University Press, 2000).

L’Merchie Frazier is Director of Education and Interpretation at the Museum of African-American History, Boston/Nantucket. A practicing artist, Ms. Frazier has been the recipient of the Francis X. Merritt/Mary B. Bishop Grant, the Lila Wallace Reader’s Digest Arts International artist-in-residence fellowship in Brazil, and a City of Boston Public Art Award.

Thavolia Glymph is Associate Professor of African & African American Studies and History at Duke University. Dr. Glymph’s research focuses on the Southern United States, slavery and emancipation, comparative emancipation, the Civil War, and Southern women. Her book, *Out of the House of Bondage: The Transformation of the Plantation Household* (Cambridge University Press, 2008), was the co-winner for the 2009 Philip Taft Labor History Award and a Finalist for the 2009 Frederick Douglass Book Prize.

Juneteenth Freedom Seminar

The Program in African American History at the Library Company of Philadelphia hosts an annual Juneteenth Freedom program. This year’s theme, “African American Women in the Era of Emancipation,” explores the Civil War experiences of free and enslaved black women as they challenged slavery and defined freedom on the front lines.

Our seminar serves as a recognition of Juneteenth—one of the oldest known celebrations commemorating the ending of slavery in the United States. On June 19th, 1865, Union soldiers arrived in Galveston, Texas with news that the war had ended and that the enslaved were now free. This news came two and a half years after President Lincoln’s Emancipation Proclamation was issued and now often serves as a symbolic day of freedom.