



# A GATHERING AT THE CROSSROADS! Commonwealth Monument Project

**A COMMEMORATION PLANNER  
TWO GREAT PENNSYLVANIA HISTORIC BENCHMARKS**

**150TH**  
*Anniversary*  
**OF THE 15TH  
AMENDMENT**

**100TH**  
*Anniversary*  
**OF THE 19TH  
AMENDMENT**

*At a time  
when many cities across  
the nation  
struggle with issues  
surrounding the removal  
of historic monuments  
now thought divisive,  
The Commonwealth  
embraces  
the opportunity  
to enhance its stories  
and images of place  
recognizing the state's role  
in securing democracy's  
most important privilege  
and practice.  
The Right to Vote.*



## 2019-2020 COMMONWEALTH MONUMENT PROJECT

Beginning January 2019, we will embark on a two year exploration of the value of the vote through installations, exhibitions, workshops, civic dialogue, arts immersion and public presentations. **JOIN US** along the pathway to progress!



Commonwealth Monument Project is an initiative of The Foundation for Enhancing Communities (fiscal agent). And it is an affiliated project of International Institute for Peace Through Tourism (IIPT).



# Laying the Groundwork for the 15th Amendment.

## 15th Amendment

Do you believe the Declaration of Independence ... that men are created with equal rights...?"



The Pennsylvania Quest for Freedom was constructed like a blueprint for a great cathedral.

Its foundation was built upon the sheer will power and self-determination of its agents of freedom.

It's four walls were held up by its conductors through flight, vigilance, integration, and socialization.

Its roof line was anchored upon education achieved through its safe houses. and its bell tower rang through the achievement of its free towns.

Enterprise, its great spire, was achieved through citizenship and the franchise!

African American Freedmen and Freemen in Pennsylvania enjoyed the right to vote until 1838.

They lost that right in an avalanche of political events that have always reminded the community of how precious the right to vote is, how tentative the right can be, and how vigilant we all must be to preserve that right.

After incredible diligence and diplomacy, families like T, Morris Chester's rejoiced the passage of the amendment that would at once restore their privilege and provide the new-found rights to the family of Jacob Compton.

Frances Harper was also filled with both jubilation and apprehension. She well remembered the inferno of the Philadelphia Independence Hall set on fire by indignant mobs as Abolitionists assembled in the city of brotherly love. in 1838.

72 hours after the Philadelphia Negro Convention began, the building lay in total ashes.

So, Pennsylvanians had much to shout about upon the passage of the 15th

amendment. While it was a beginning for much of the union's African American communities, Pennsylvanians had accomplished the restoration of the right to vote for Black men.

From the end of the Civil War until the passage of the 15th amendment, African American leaders from across the Commonwealth convened in Philadelphia, Harrisburg, Altoona and Pittsburgh to add self-achievement and self-reliance to the equation of strategic planning for the realization of the franchise.

Pennsylvania was amongst the first states to ratify the 15th amendment in March 1869.

By February 1870, the amendment had received ratification from the 39 states needed.

In May 1870 it became federal law.

But it did not go easy!! T. M Chester and William Howard Day knew instinctively of the trouble that lay ahead when they mounted voter registration drives as vehicles to practice the franchise.

They could not have known that the ultimate sacrifice would be their friend and colleague Octavio Catto.. This fearless leader was gunned down on the way to the ballot box at Philadelphia's Lombard and South just blocks from Mother Bethel Church.



During the 19th and 20th centuries, Black women played an active role in the struggle for universal suffrage. They participated in political meetings and organized societies across the Commonwealth where they planned strategies to gain the right to vote.

Amongst them were the Henry Highland Garnett Society and Harrisburg's powerful House of Ruth.

In the late 1800s, increasing numbers of Black women like Frances Harper, Harriet Smith, and Charlotte Forten, took on leadership positions in churches, newspapers, secondary schools, and colleges which gave them a larger platform to promote their ideas.

But in spite of their hard work, many people didn't listen to them. For example, the National American Woman Suffrage Association prevented Black women from attending their conventions. Black women had to march separately from White women in suffrage parades.

In addition, when Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony wrote the History of Woman Suffrage in the 1880s, they featured White suffragists while



ignoring the contributions of African American suffragists.

Though Black women are less well remembered, they played incredibly significant roles in getting the Fifteenth and Nineteenth Amendments passed.

What is little known and was never anticipated was the breach with the Suffragette movement over African American men receiving the vote before White women

This is a shocking truth about how some of our traditional heroes and heroines really felt.

Abolitionism, Temperance and Women's Suffrage were social and political movements in the 1800s, often involving many of the same people. Both amalgamation and Abolitionism were controversial, and movements frequently clashed.

A New York newspaper, reporting on the arson of Pennsylvania Hall, suggested, "females gathered so forgot the province of their sex, as they perambulated about the country attending political meetings, that they should all be sent to insane asylums."

The original language for the 19th Amendment to the US Constitution was introduced in January 1878. However, the proposal sat in a committee until it was considered by the full Senate and rejected in a 16 to 34 vote in 1887.

Unfortunately, many male abolitionists, Black and White, held similar views on the impropriety of women in the public sphere. Some like Frederick Douglas even feared that women pushing for the vote could hurt their cause.

For three decades there was little activity in the nation's Capital until Washington and California States allowed women to vote in 1910-11.

In 1919, President Woodrow Wilson called a special session of the Congress so the proposal would be brought before the House again. Again, Pennsylvania was amongst the first to ratify in 1919.

On June 4, 1919 the amendment passed the Senate with 56 ayes and 25 nays. On August 18, 1920, Tennessee provided the final ratification necessary to add the amendment to the Constitution.

## 15th:

Pennsylvania Ratification - *March 1869*  
39 States ratification - *February 1870*  
Becomes Federal Law - *May, 1870*



## 19th AMENDMENT!

PA was the 7th state to ratify the 19th Amendment

Pennsylvania Ratification - *1919*  
States Ratification - *1920*  
Becomes Federal Law - *1920*

## TODAY'S STEWARDSHIP

### THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF AFRICAN AMERICAN AFFAIRS

Established by Executive Order 2015-07, the Governor's Commission on African American Affairs (GACAAA) serves as the commonwealth's advocate agency for the African American community in Pennsylvania. Our mission is to ensure that state government is accessible and accountable by advising the governor on policies, procedures, legislation, and regulations. GACAAA also works to expand and enhance the civic, social, educational, cultural, and economic status of the African American Community.

The commission is composed of twenty volunteer members appointed by the governor for a term of two years.



### THE GOVERNOR'S COMMISSION ON WOMEN

The Pennsylvania Commission for Women, which was created by Executive Order and consists of volunteer members, is responsible for advising the Governor on policies and legislation that impact women; supporting economic and civic opportunities for women; encouraging mentoring programs for girls and young women; identifying programs and opportunities for the benefit and advancement of women; and serving as a resource center for Pennsylvania women. The Commission also acts as an advocate for policies and legislation it feels serves the best interest of women and girls in Pennsylvania



### OFFICE OF VOTER REGISTRATION

<https://www.votespa.com/Pages/default.aspx>

This site is a comprehensive voting resource for all eligible citizens in Pennsylvania. VotesPA can help you find your polling place, check your registration status, register online to vote, apply for an absentee ballot, and more.

See you at the polls!

## FIND OUT MORE AT THESE GREAT SITES:

<https://digitalharrisburg.com/> and <http://housedivided.dickinson.edu/>



## ABOUT THE ORATORS



### FRANCES HARPER

(September 24, 1825 – February 22, 1911) was an only child and orphaned at 3. She was raised by her maternal aunt and uncle, Henrietta and Rev. William Watkins who was the minister at the Sharp Street African Methodist Episcopal Church. He also taught at his Watkins Academy for Negro Youth, which she attended. She worked as a dressmaker and a teacher, a public speaker and a writer. As an abolitionist and a suffragette she founded several national progressive associations including, in 1894, the National Association of Colored Women. Harper was one of the first published African-American writers beginning her writing career publishing in antislavery journals in 1839. In addition to non-fiction articles she wrote novels, short stories and poetry. She died nine years before women gained the right to vote.



### THOMAS CHESTER

(May 11, 1843 - September, 30, 1892) Mr. Chester was born in Harrisburg, PA. He was the son of , former slave Jane, and George Chester. Abolitionist, they operated a popular restaurant. Educated at Avery Academy and in Monrovia, Liberia, he graduated from Tedford College. During Civil War, he recruited for the 54th & 55th Mass regiments, formed a brigade to defend Harrisburg during battle of Gettysburg and later served as a newspaper war correspondent, covering the USCT. He cited, that USCT from Pennsylvania could not vote in 1864 election because Black men were disenfranchised in 1838. Mr. Chester, first Black American admitted to English Bar, returned here in the fall of 1870 gave a fiery Speech of advice to newly enfranchised citizens of Harrisburg. Moving to Louisiana, he practiced law, became Superintendent of Schools and a Brig. General in State Militia. Returning home, he became the first African American lawyer in Dauphin County.



### JACOB COMPTON

(August 3, 1836 - September 6, 1905) Born free, in Williamsport, Md. Mr. Compton's parents died of cholera in 1854. Being charged with assisting two slaves to escape, he fled from Williamsport, Md in 1855 and came to Harrisburg, PA. In February, 1861, Mr. Compton, being coachman to Simon Cameron, secretly drove President-elect Abraham Lincoln, from the Jones House on Market Square, to an obscure train boarding that enabled Lincoln to travel, by way of Philadelphia, to Washington, D.C., avoiding a stop in Baltimore, Md. Lincoln, thus evaded a planned assassination attempt in Baltimore. During the Civil War, Mr. Compton served as a Sgt of Company D, Twenty-fourth Infantry, U.S.C. T. Mr. Compton , was a charter member, and later Director, of the Excelsior Cornet Band , which led the April,25, 1870, 15th Amendment Parade and Celebration in Harrisburg. For many years, Mr. Compton was director of the choirs of the A.M.E and A.M.E. Zion churches in Harrisburg.



### WILLIAM HOWARD DAY

(October 16, 1825 - December 3, 1900) Day was born in New York City and attended the famous African Free School. After graduating from Oberlin College in 1847, he dedicated his life to the rights of African Americans. Trained as a printer he published John Brown's Constitution and several newspapers. Day moved to Harrisburg in 1872 and worked for the state Auditor General. He was elected six times to the Harrisburg School Board., serving as its president ,1891-1893, becoming the first African American to do so. Day was Secretary General of the Conference of the AME Zion church for five terms. Day was also a founding member of the Pennsylvania School Board's Association.

## “EVERY PEOPLE MUST BE ORIGINATORS OF THEIR OWN DESTINY”!

*Martin Delaney*

“A Gathering at the Crossroads” is a benchmark public installation commissioned for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania by a coalition of over 40 organizations and 200 individuals.

The Commonwealth Monument Project is in negotiation with PA Department of General Services to place the new work on the Commonwealth Capitol lawn south of the Irvis Building at 4th and Walnut.

In the months ahead, we will seek the endorsement and approval of the Pennsylvania Legislature. The installation will connect the Capitol and Strawberry Square.

Designed to be interactive; people can physically enter the monument.

Great civic speakers were well known to present spirited addresses before citizens in the center of public squares, houses of worship. They assembled in halls throughout the Old 8th Ward.

The orators’ pedestal became the symbol of the advocacy for abolition and equal rights.

The proposed monument includes the figures of four great elocutionists: Ms. Frances Ellen Watkins Harper, William Howard Day, Jacob Compton, and

Thomas Morris Chester.

The four figures of the monument exemplify the impact of the period’s great orators upon the change makers amongst Harrisburg’s African American community.

Their allegorical gathering commemorates a point in time documented by the comparison of historic reports in the Harrisburg Newspapers.

In May 1870, residents of the Old 8th Ward poured out into the streets in spontaneous jubilation when they learned that the 15th Amendment had become federal law. They had secured the vote for African-Americans.

Neighborhood residents gathered for a public reading followed by prayers and praises.

Thus, the four dynamic civic leaders exemplified by the monument gather around the Orators pedestal which commemorates the legacy of the historic Old 8th Ward.

Upon its sides are inscribed the names of 100 legendary leaders of the Old 8th Ward, the names of current pathfinders, change agents and history makers and the emblems of sponsors of the project.

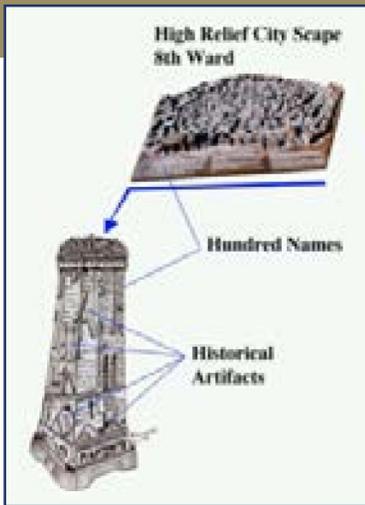
## ABOUT THE ARTISTS

“A Gathering at the Crossroads” is a benchmark work for the Commonwealth created by A.R.T. Research Enterprises, Inc. of Lancaster, Pa. Their most recent project was for the MGM Hotel and Casino National Inner Harbor in Washington, D.C.

ART Inc. has designed, fabricated and installed monuments for the Smithsonian, the National Air and Space Museum, the National History Museum, Professional Sports, Urban Retail

properties. They have provided castings for artists Fredrick Hart, the sculptor of the Vietnam Memorial in DC, Tom Otterness, an internationally known artist, Santiago Caltrava, a world-renowned architect, Audrey, photo realistic artist sculptor and many more.

Today they are nationally recognized as a premier art foundry service. A.R.T. operates a thirty thousand square foot facility that houses fabrication equipment and melting furnaces. In any given year they employ 16-30 artisans and technicians.



MONUMENT SITE - 4TH AND WALNUT



A.R.T. STUDIO SITE VISIT - DISCUSSING THE CASTING PROCESS



A.R.T. STUDIO VISIT - MEETING OF MINDS - PEDESTAL PROJECT

## SPOTLIGHT BOX - A SALUTE TO EXEMPLAR PEGGY GROVE



PEGGY GROVE - EXEMPLARS' GROVE



PEGGY GROVE - WOMEN'S MONUMENT

Peggy Grove, a business owner in Harrisburg for the past 37 years, has invested her time, talents, energy and resources in many community projects. From her service on Harrisburg City Council to her dedication to the many childrens’ programs, she has left her mark on this City, it’s families and especially it’s children.

Ms. Grove has served on many foundations and community organizations, giving service through: Harrisburg NAACP, Harrisburg

Rotary, Historic Harrisburg Assn, Parks and Recreation projects, numerous scholarship trusts and committees, Jewish Community Foundation and the Tzedakah Society. She also is involved in Local, State and National politics and serves as South Central Caucus Chair of the PDP.

Her contributions to the Peace Promenade Project have helped support many aspects of the multi year long program.

The partners and constituents of the **2019-2020 COMMONWEALTH MONUMENT PROJECT** join The International Institute of Peace Through Tourism in saluting Ms. Peggy Grove for her outstanding generosity and public service as we galvanize our efforts to accomplish this benchmark endeavor.



# A CALL FOR THE DESCENDANTS OF THE OLD 8TH WARD



Capitol of Pennsylvania - Harrisburg



OLD 8TH WARD - WILLIAM HOWARD DAY SCHOOL

The architecture and facades of the historic Old 8th Ward have completely disappeared.

Not a door frame, lamp post, cornice or cornerstone remains on the landscape to remind us of its importance and its impact.

It's businesses and enterprises have disbursed, disbanded, or have been transformed.

Indeed, it's residents and their children and their children's children have scattered throughout Central PA, the Commonwealth and across time.

Their artifacts have been passed down and are now hidden in attic trunks, basement boxes and bundled stacks.

Their primary documents are buried in old suitcases beneath beds, in the back of closet shelves, in tattered envelopes, or hidden in plain sight in well-worn family Bibles.

Where are the descendants of the Old 8th Ward now?

What has been their contribution to civic engagement and social progress along the Diaspora from that special place?

What do they know about their treasured legacy?

What is their currency in today's civic dialogue?

We are excited as we approach the benchmark commemorations of the 15th and 19th amendments.

As we stand at the crossroads of two important red-letter days, we are in search of their stories.

It's the perfect time for descendants of the Old 8th Ward to come forward and claim their lineage.

To help rebuild the pathway to progress, we post this special "WANTED!" list seeking the descendants of 100 families of Harrisburg's African American community 1850-1920.

Their histories create the template for Reimagining the Old 8th Ward.

Take a look at the list below.

If you recognize your family name or one that stands out in your memories you might be part of the great "crazy quilt" that constitutes the tapestry of this important time.

So, come forward! Join the White Carnation Society.

Meet us at our free monthly gatherings at Gamut Theater (4th and Aberdeen Streets,) or McCormick Public Library (Front and Walnut) in the Capitol City of Harrisburg.

Round up your family, congregation and constituency and bring along your artifacts and memorabilia.

Our scholars, humanists, archivists, curators, and educators will provide context to your documents.

Our "History Detectives" will be on hand to help you identify how your treasures fit into the jig saw puzzle of history.

We will share ways to preserve and protect your treasures.

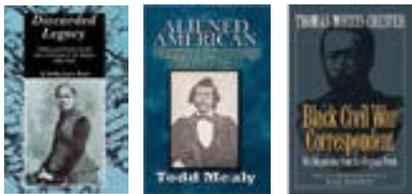
And our *Legendary Pennsylvania Past Players* will love for you to join their story circles.

For more information about these free programs, see below or visit: [gamut.com](http://gamut.com) OR [dcls.org](http://dcls.org)

- |                                       |                                       |                                      |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| ADAMS, JOHN Q   Minister              | Aeroplane School                      | NEWMAN, LUTHER   Teacher             |
| AMOS, ANNE   Garnett League           | FIELDS, EDITH   Enumerator            | PARSON, WILLIAM   Pharmacist         |
| AMOS, AQUILA   Parade Marshal         | FOOTE, BENJAMIN   Council             | PAYNE, HORACE   Teacher              |
| ASTWOOD, ROSCO C   State Worker       | FRYE, THEODORE   Businessman          | PAYNE-CAMBELL, CATHERINE   Teacher   |
| AUTER, JAMES   State Worker           | GAITOR, JOHN   Caterer                | PEPEL, ESTHER   Teacher              |
| BATTIS, FRISBY   Council              | GALBRAITH, GEORGE   Politician        | PEPEL, JOSEPH B   Abolitionist       |
| BATTIS, WILLIAM   Storekeeper         | GARNETT, HENRY H   Minister           | POTTER SR, DANIEL   Churchman        |
| BENNETT, GWENDOLYN   Professor        | GRANT, JAMES   Mason                  | QUANN, ROSABELLE   Student           |
| BENNETT, J ROBBIN   Attorney          | HARRISON, HARRIETT   Teacher          | ROBINSON, AUBREY   Student           |
| BENNETT, MARY   Businesswoman         | HOOPER, WALTER   Undertaker           | ROBINSON, LAURA   Civil War Monument |
| BIBB, DENNEE   Policeman              | HOWARD, LAYTON   Publisher            | SCOTT, JOHN P   Teacher              |
| BIBB, JOSEPHINE L   Household of Ruth | HOWARD, JAMES H W   Council           | SCOTT-CANNON, HANNAH   Nurse         |
| BLACKWELL, PETER   Council            | HUGHES, O. L. C.   Attorney           | SIMPSON, JOHN W   Alderman           |
| BLALOCK-CHARLESTON, JANIE   Teacher   | IMES, GEORGE H   Teacher              | SLAUGHTER, EPHRIAM   USCT            |
| BRAXTON-ROBERTS, MARY   Teacher       | IRVIN, SPENCER P   Teacher            | SOPHES, SUSAN   Household of Ruth    |
| BROWN, CASSIUS   Council              | JACKSON, C. SYLVESTER   Accountant    | STCLAIR-GRANT, HATTIE   Teacher      |
| BROWN, IDA   Teacher                  | JOHNSON, ZACARIAH   15 Amendment      | STEVENS, DAVID   Minister            |
| BURRS, HARRY   State Worker           | JOHNSON SR, LOENARD Z   Professor     | STOCKS, JAMES   Minister             |
| BURRUS, SYLVESTER   Musician          | JONES, DR. PAP   Physician            | STROTHERS, COLONEL   Baseball        |
| BUSTILL, JOSEPH   Teacher             | JONES, HANNAH   Churchwoman           | STUART, JAMES   Teacher              |
| CARTER, W. ARTHUR   Attorney          | JONES, WILLIAM H   Physician          | STUART, MATILDA   Missionary         |
| CARTER, W. JUSTIN   Attorney          | KEMP, AGNES   Physician               | SUMMERS, ANNIE   Teacher             |
| CARTER, CHARLES J   15 Amendment      | LAYTON JR, MORRIS H   Physician       | SUMMERS, HENRY H   Professor         |
| CHESTER, DAVID   Council              | LAYTON SR, MORRIS H   Teacher         | THOMAS, JOSEPH   Undertaker          |
| CHESTER, AMELIA   Household of Ruth   | MARSHALL, A. LESLIE   PHYSICIAN       | WALLS, JOSIAH   Congressmen          |
| CHESTER, JANE   Restauranteer         | MARSHALL, HARRIETT M   UGRR           | WEBSTER, DANIEL   Fugitive Slave     |
| COLEMAN, MAUDE   YMCA Founder         | MARSHALL, WILLIAM E   Pharmacist      | WILLIAMS, CLARENCE   Baseball        |
| COOPER, TURNER   Carpenter            | MARSHALL, WILLIAM H   Teacher         | WILLIAMS, WILLIAM   Policeman        |
| COSTLEY, JACOB   Musician             | J MATHEWS, ESSE   Publisher           | WOLF, JOHN H   Abolitionist          |
| CRAMPTON, CHARLES   Physician         | McCLINTOCK, CATHERINE   UGRR          | ZEDERICKS, ELIZA   Hairdresser       |
| CURTIS, DOROTHY   Musician            | MERCER, MILDRED   Musician            |                                      |
| DAVIS, J STEWARD   Attorney           | MOLSON, MAUD D   Lecturer             |                                      |
| DORSEY, WILLIAM R   Constable         | MOORE, PERCY   Council                |                                      |
| DUNBAR-NELSON, ALICE   Writer         | NELSON, ROBERT   State Worker         |                                      |
| FELTON, WILLIAM McDONALD              | NEWMAN, CHARLOTTE   Household of Ruth |                                      |

## "Live and Learn" – Civic Dialogue and Cultural Literacy Series –

## "Reimagining the Old 8th Ward" – a Chautauqua Workshop –



### "Pathways to Progress"

The popular story circle, reading group and living history series originally created for Pennsylvania Civil War 150 and the USCT Grand Review of 2013 and 2015 is restructured. We'll provide a bi-monthly forum on the exploration of the pathway towards the passage of the 15th Amendment.

Impressive scholars and humanists will present compelling civic dialogues on new scholarship and literature accompanied by living history presentations.

The series also provides an opportunity for the community to follow the progress of the development of

the monument through "open studio" engagement with the creative team.

The series is free to the public and hosted at Gamut Theater's new second stage from noon – 2p in

**January 12**, Cooper Wingert introduces *"THE CAPTIVE'S QUEST FOR FREEDOM"* by R.J. M. Blackett

**March 9**, Dr. Tonya Thames Taylor introduces *"DISCARDED LEGACIES"* by Melba Joyce Boyd

**May 25**, Dr. Todd Mealy introduces his two volume *"AUDACIOUS FREEDOM"*

**July 6**, Dr. Barbara Franco introduces – *"YEAR OF JUBILEE"* by George Nagle

**September 7**, Ms. Sonya Toler – introduces *THOMAS CHESTER – CIVIL WAR JOURNALIST* by R.J. Blackett

**November 9**, Mr. Ivan Henderson introduces *"ANIMATING DEMOCRACIES"* by Americans for the Arts



Combining the approaches of "Antique Road Show" and "History Detectives", the series provides an exploration of the artifacts, historical documents, and photographs available for the Old 8th Ward in a variety of public collections and archives.

Workshop participants can bring their own family artifacts for dialogue and review or help search for 100 stories of residents, businesses and services during the period 1850-1920.

Descendants of the Old 8th Ward identified will constitute the "White Carnation Society".

The six-part series is presented at the McCormick Public Library, Front and Walnut Streets in collaboration

with Dauphin County Public Libraries. It's free to the public on Saturdays from noon – 2p

**February 16**, Dr. Michael Barton introduces his *"HARRISBURG OLD 8TH WARD!"*

**April 20**, NPS-NTF, introduces *"THE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD IN PENNSYLVANIA"*

**June 15**, Dr. LeRoy Hopkins introduces *"THE WAR BEFORE THE WAR"* by Andrew Delbanco

**August 17**, Mr. Randy Harris introduces *"RECONSTRUCTION- A CONCISE HISTORY"* By Allen C. Guelzo

**October 19**, Mr. Calobe Jackson introduces *"AFRICAN AMERICANS OF HARRISBURG"* by John Scott And E. Lidell

**December 14**, in 2019 Dr. Brad Hoch introduces *"IN THE SHADOW OF STATUES"* by Mitch Landrieu



**HELP US MEET OUR MARK – DONATE TODAY AT**  
<https://www.tfec.org/harrisburg-peace-promenade-15th-amendment-project/>