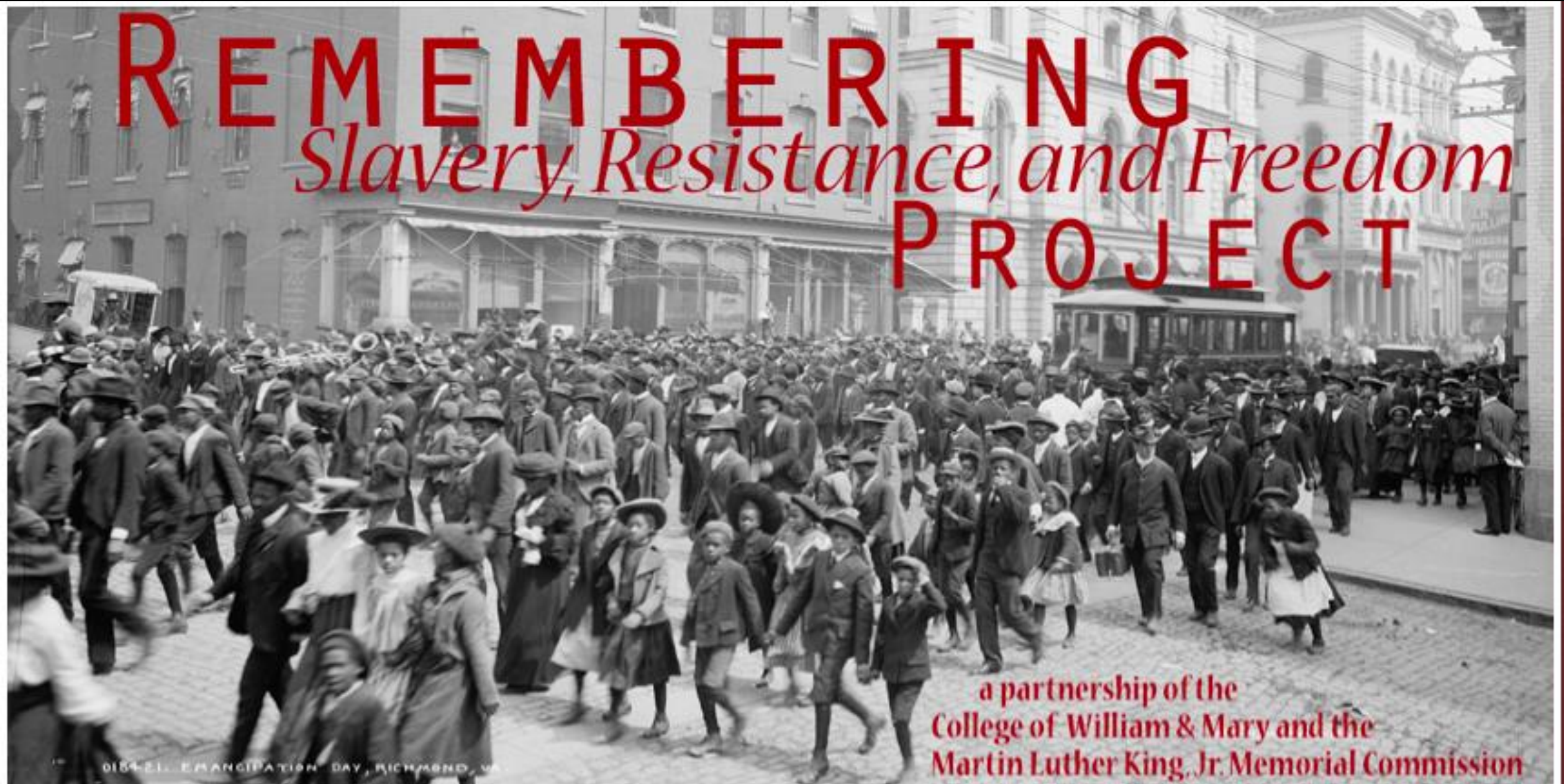


REMEMBERING

Slavery, Resistance, and Freedom

PROJECT



a partnership of the
College of William & Mary and the
Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Commission

1865 EMANCIPATION DAY, RICHMOND, VA.

- Remembering Slavery, Resistance, and Freedom Proposal accepted by the MLK Commission October 2010
- Preliminary ideas:
 - Commemorate the Emancipation Proclamation by marking the unmarked landscapes of African and African American history in Virginia
 - sites of resistance
 - buildings built by enslaved laborers
 - cemeteries, marked and unmarked
- Community engagement, community-led commemorations
- Community Meetings to identify statewide and regional themes

Eight Community Meetings: November 2011 – July 2012

Coastal, Central, Northern, Valley, Southwest



Community Meetings

Location	City	Region	Date
Warren Heritage Society	Front Royal	Valley	November 2011
Alexandria Black History Museum	Alexandria	Northern	January 2012
Newsome House Museum	Newport News	Coastal	April 2012
Valentine Richmond History Center	Richmond	Central	April 2012
Elegba Folklore Society	Richmond	Central	April 2012
Afro-American Historical Association of Fauquier County	The Plains	Northern	May 2012
Josephine School Museum	Berryville	Valley	May 2012
Appalachian African American Cultural Center	Pennington Gap	Southwest	July 2012

Number of Participants in all Regional Meetings

Total Attending	Total Responses
172	144

Ethnic/Racial Breakdown of Participants

	European Descent	African Descent	Multi- Ethnic	No Answer
144 Responses	45 (31.25%)	87 (60.4%)	6 (4.2%)	6 (4.2%)

Participants by Gender

	Male	Female	No Answer
144 Responses	48 (33.3%)	90 (62.5%)	6 (4.2%)

Participants by Age

	18-29	30's	40's	50's	60's	70's	No Answer
144 Responses	7 (4.9%)	5 (3.5%)	19 (13.2%)	30 (20.8%)	56 (38.9%)	19 (13.2%)	8 (5.6%)

Statewide Themes

- The history of Africans in the Americas begins in Africa (“not in 1619”)
- African American liberation began long before the Emancipation Proclamation
 - acts of resistance
 - self liberation
 - still ongoing – didn’t end with the Emancipation Proclamation
- Go beyond the “pristine” story; tell the whole story, including the “ugliness”

Statewide Themes

- Desire to know the complicated history of the Emancipation Proclamation
- Lincoln's motivation for issuing the Proclamation

Statewide Themes

- Storytelling is powerful
 - in relation to cemeteries - emphasize that cemeteries honor the lives of those interred - show images, family photos, make the personal connection

Statewide Themes

- Families are living legacies of resistance
 - family histories represent strength
 - make the personal connection between past and present
 - connects the personal to broader histories
 - genealogy

Statewide Themes

- A need for youth-based programs and initiatives
- A need for multi-generational initiatives

Statewide Themes

- Transformational Learning Experiences
 - powerful connections between history, historic sites, heritage, and identity.
 - role that interpretation plays in the experience of visiting and learning about history and historic sites

Statewide Themes

- KEEP THE CONVERSATIONS GOING

Regionally Specific Themes

- There is a need for healing programs and conversations
- a space for African Americans and European Americans to talk openly about the legacies of racism
 - Central, Northern, Southwest

Regionally Specific Themes

- Tell the stories of African American heroes
 - represent resistance as heroic
 - too often stories of resistance are absent or contextualized negatively
 - Coastal, Central, Southwest

Regionally Specific Themes

- African American sites are often not interpreted well
- Guides and docents often avoid difficult topics
- Valley, Central, Northern

Regionally Specific Themes

- History interpreters and docents need a forum to learn how to discuss the difficult topics related to the histories of slavery and racism
- Valley, Central, Northern

Regionally Specific Themes

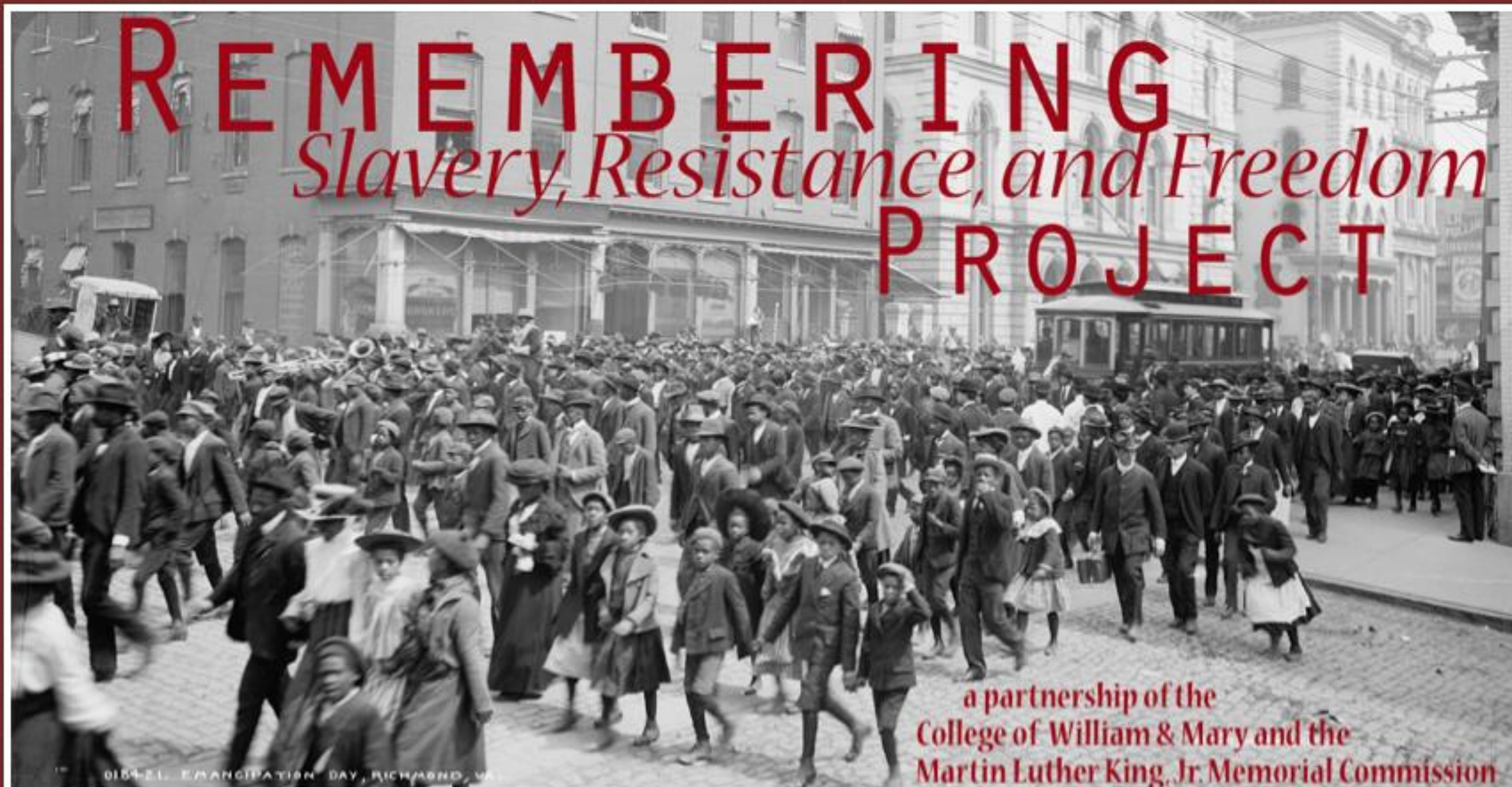
- What is the quantified value of the labor and capital provided by enslaved Africans and African Americans?
- Emancipation Celebrations throughout the Diaspora
 - Central

Regionally Specific Themes

- Desire to know more about local and family history
 - Northern

- MLK Commission's "slave cemetery project"
 - honor those who did not live to see emancipation
 - database

- MLK Commission - \$15,000
 - travel reimbursement, printing costs, Facebook ads, transcription, and sites database work
- College of William & Mary - \$12,275
 - part time staff during summer 2012
 - printing, travel, refreshments, Facebook ads, April 27 & May 4
- Student volunteers
 - Statewide meetings
 - Website and Facebook creation and maintenance



Introduction to the Project

Remembering Slavery, Resistance, and Freedom is a project that seeks to develop memorial events, exhibits and/or projects to recognize the 150th anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation through discussions and engagement with Virginia's African-descended communities and other interested groups. These commemorations will honor the rich and complex lives, contributions, and sacrifices of enslaved and free Africans and African

Introduction

Project Goals

Community
Engagement



205 likes · 2 talking about this

Organization

We are a partnership of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Commission and the College of William & Mary engaging in community collaboration to see how Virginians want to



 **205**



Cemetery

Documentation and

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About

Photos

Likes

Events

Notes 1

Highlights ▼

 Status

 Photo / Video

 Offer, Event +

Write something...

Post

Likes

[See All](#)

The College of William and Mary

Historical Place • College & University



The Civil War in Art

Arts/Humanities Website

See Your Ad Here

Yay! We have over 20 likes! Thanks everyone!

Like This Page

Advertise Your Business

Lecture & Discussion

- Dr. Newby-Alexander
- Dr. Lynn Rainville
- Dr. Edna Medford
- Dr. David Blight
- Dr. Whitney Battle-Baptiste
- Dr. Rex Ellis
- Dr. Dianne Swann-Wright

Genealogy Workshops

- Professor Paula Royster, CAAGRI

Facilitated Viewings

- 14 viewings of filmed sessions across Virginia

Improved appreciation of the significance of cemeteries?

No – 0

Maybe – 3.6%

Yes – 50%

Very Much – 46.4%

Enhanced appreciation of the humanity of the enslaved and the inhumanity of slavery?

No – 0

Maybe – 0

Yes – 61%

Very Much – 39%

Was the discussion an important part of this event?

No – 0

Maybe – 7.1%

Yes – 35.7%

Very Much – 57.1%

First RSRFP event – 62%

The Remembering Slavery, Resistance, and Freedom Project
a partnership of the College of William & Mary, the MLK Commission,
and the Virginia Foundation for the Humanities

April 27, 2013
The College of William and Mary
William Small Hall
Room 110
Lecture and Discussion
10 AM to 12:30 PM
remembering@wm.edu / 757-221-7889

Sacred Space: Burial Places of the Enslaved and their Descendants

Dr. Cassandra Newby-Alexander and Dr. Lynn Rainville
will present the stories told through cemeteries of enslaved and free African Americans who forged sacred space as an undaunted expression of their humanity.

Dr. Grey Gundaker and Dr. Hollis Pruitt
will lead a public discussion of slavery and sacred space to mark the Sesquicentennial of the Emancipation Proclamation.

Moderated by Dr. Michael Blakey



Cassandra Newby-Alexander
Norfolk State University



Lynn Rainville
Sweet Briar College



Grey Gundaker
The College of William & Mary



Hollis Pruitt
Thomas Nelson Community College



Michael Blakey
The College of William & Mary

The Remembering Slavery, Resistance, and Freedom Project
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and the Virginia Foundation for the Humanities

Saturday, May 4, 2013
The College of William & Mary
Swem Library
Dulin Learning Center
Room 134
10:30 AM to 1:30 PM

Seating is limited. Please register by
contacting us at remembering@wm.edu
or 757-221-7889

Genealogy Workshop: Led by Paula Royster

President & CEO
The Center for African American Genealogical Research, Inc.

Come learn how to use family stories, archival records, and cemetery
sites to trace your family's history.

CAAGRI uses traditional research methods, digital technology and forensic science
to encourage families to preserve their history so that a more accurate record of
American, indeed world history, is properly documented. CAAGRI also seeks to
reunite as many African descended Americans with their African relatives as
possible.



Learn new methods & strategies for
genealogical research?

No – 0

Maybe – 0

Yes – 20%

Very Much – 80%

Did the workshop help you begin
and/ or improve your genealogical
research?

No – 0

Maybe – 0

Yes – 0

Very Much – 100%

Was the workshop well organized?

No – 0

Maybe – 0

Yes – 75%

Very Much – 25%

First RSRFP event – 0

Resistance Conversations

- Gabriel's Rebellion, Lucy Goode Brooks—
Richmond, VA
- Stories of Resistance through the archives—
Fauquier County
- Contraband Crossings – Fort Monroe
- Women and Resistance - Alexandria
- Nat Turner – Southampton County
- John Law and Josephine City – Clarke County
- Rachel Scott – Pennington Gap

Healing Conversations

- Fauquier County and Richmond
- Partnering with Coming to the Table
 - family stories

Next Steps

- Submitted VFH grant proposal May 1, 2013 to pilot Resistance Conversations and Healing Conversations
- Notification by mid June