



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 1, 2020

Contact: Pati Nash at pnash@dehistory.org (302) 295-2390 or Cell (302) 300-2547

Delaware Historical Society Celebrates Juneteenth
Expert on Reconstruction to Give Two Online Lectures

Wilmington, DE: It was more than two and a half years after President Lincoln declared emancipation for all African Americans in America that union soldiers informed enslaved people in Texas of their liberation. It was June 19, 1865, after the Civil War had ended.

Also known as Freedom Day, or the Black Fourth of July, June 19 - known as Juneteenth - commemorates the official end of slavery in the United States and is celebrated throughout the country.

In recognition of Juneteenth, and the 150-year anniversary of the 15th amendment (which gave black men the right to vote), join the Jane and Littleton Mitchell Center for African American Heritage at the Delaware Historical Society (DHS) for an online presentation on the era by Christy Coleman.

“To Be Free, A Citizen and a Voter- African American Agency in the Civil War” will be presented on Zoom by DHS on June 17, 2020 at 10 a.m. and again at 6 p.m. Registration is required, see below for details.

Among the most pernicious inaccuracies of the Civil War Era is the notion African Americans, enslaved and free, played no significant role in the war or its aftermath.

Ms. Coleman will highlight key moments leading up to, during, and after the conflict. Particular emphasis will be given to the 13th, 14th and 15th Amendments during the Reconstruction Period.

Christy Coleman grew up in Williamsburg, Virginia and earned her Bachelor’s and Master’s degrees from Hampton University. She’s currently serves as Executive Director of the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation in Williamsburg, VA. A tireless advocate for the power of museums, narrative correction and inclusion, she’s an innovator and leader in the history museum field. Christy strives to make museum experiences and shared history meaningful to diverse communities. She’s written numerous articles, is an accomplished screenwriter, public speaker and has appeared on several national programs.

Registration is required. Visit the [Delaware Historical Society website](#) for more information. Please register for either the morning session or the afternoon session.

About the Delaware Historical Society

The Delaware Historical Society owns and operates the Delaware History Museum; the Jane and Littleton Mitchell Center for African American Heritage; a nationally recognized Research Library; Old Town Hall; Willingtown Square, four 18th-century houses surrounding a picturesque urban courtyard located in downtown Wilmington; and the National Historic Landmark Read House & Gardens located in New Castle. For more information, call (302) 655-7161, email deinfo@dehistory.org, or visit www.dehistory.org.

#seeyourselfinhistory

Facebook: @dehistory

Instagram: @delawarehistoricalsociety

Twitter: @thisisdehistory

About the Mitchell Center for African American Heritage

The MCAAH offers an expansive exploration of the African American experience from 1639 to the present through artifacts, oral history interviews, music and art. These diverse perspectives of African American's struggle for freedom and dignity strengthens our state-wide community, as we preserve, share, and promote the history, heritage and culture of Delaware.

#####