

A Living Legacy

The Montpelier Slave Descendants Reunion

June 8-10, 2007

*You
are invited
to President James
Madison's Montpelier,
in Orange County, Virginia,
to commemorate and honor the
legacy and contributions of the enslaved
African Americans whose freedom was sacrificed
to build our nation. At this gathering you
can listen to renowned scholars, renew
old friendships and create new
ones, share your family's
stories, and trace
your roots.*



IN APRIL 2001, the Montpelier Foundation hosted the first slave descendant gathering on the grounds of James Madison's Montpelier. Scheduled to coincide with the 250th anniversary of James Madison's birth, *Re-Membering: The Montpelier Slave Commemoration* honored the contributions made to our country by those enslaved on the plantation of James Madison. The institution of slavery formed the underpinning which allowed Madison to participate in most of the important national events of his time, including the creation of the United States Constitution, which is the bulwark of our freedom. During *Re-Membering*, a portion of the descendant community of Montpelier slaves was reassembled, reunited and recognized. The success of the 2001 event guaranteed that a second gathering would eventually be planned.

This year, as part of the 400th anniversary celebration of the Jamestown settlement, we again commemorate and honor the contributions of those whose freedom was sacrificed to build our nation, with a second Montpelier Slave Descendant Reunion. The 2007 event, *A Living Legacy*, expands upon our 2001 celebration by bringing together not only descendants of African Americans once enslaved at Montpelier, but also descendants from neighboring plantations in Orange County. The gathering will provide opportunities for the exchange of genealogical data, discussion of shared interests, and an occasion to honor the African Americans who lived and worked on the Montpelier plantation and in the surrounding area. Participants can listen to nationally-recognized scholars. Local historians and genealogists will also help provide a better understanding of the important research underway at Montpelier and in the local community.

The overarching goal of the 2007 event is to establish meaningful connections between Montpelier and members of the African-American community. We would like to foster relationships that lead to a better awareness of the enslaved and Post-Emancipation experience through long-term shared research into the genealogical, social, and cultural history of the descendant community. Following the 2007 event, the Montpelier Research Department will contact willing participants to collect family data, oral histories, and assist with the tracing of family ancestry through documentary and genealogical research.

Invited Speakers

John Hope Franklin

Professor Franklin is the James B. Duke Professor Emeritus of History at Duke University. Previously he was the John Matthews Manly Distinguished Service Professor at the University of Chicago. Professor Franklin's best known publication, *From Slavery to Freedom: A History of African-Americans* was first published in 1947 and is now in its seventh edition. He has served on many national commissions, including the National Council on the Humanities and as the chairman of the advisory board for One America: The President's Initiative on Race. Professor Franklin has received many honors over his long and distinguished career including the Jefferson Medal awarded by the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education, the Organization of American Historians' Award for Outstanding Achievement, the NAACP's Springarn Medal, and the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

Henry Louis Gates, Jr.

Dr. Gates is the W. E. B. Du Bois Professor of the Humanities at Harvard University. One of the most powerful academic voices in America, Dr. Gates is most recognized for his extensive research in African-American history and literature, and for developing and expanding the African American Studies program at Harvard University. Most recently, Dr. Gates co-produced, wrote and hosted the four-part 2006 PBS documentary *African American Lives* which traced the remarkable histories of eight prominent African Americans using the latest in genealogical research and DNA analysis.

Youtha C. Hardman-Cromwell

Dr. Hardman-Cromwell is an elder in the Virginia Conference of the United Methodist Church. She has served as a pastor and educator and is currently Director of the Practice in Ministry and Mission Program at Wesley Theological Seminary. Dr. Hardman-Cromwell is a mentoring pastor for Virginia Conference and serves on a number of boards and advisory committees.

Bruce A. Jackson

Dr. Jackson is on the faculty of the University of Massachusetts Lowell where he developed a nationally preeminent undergraduate science program and through the biotechnology program created the first and only forensic DNA degree program in the world. Dr. Jackson will discuss the ongoing African-American DNA Roots Project and his work attempting to reunite African Americans with their ancestral roots in Africa. As part of Dr. Jackson's presentation he will be collecting DNA samples from conference participants who are interested in tracing their own genetic roots.

Preliminary Schedule

Friday, June 8

5:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Registration
Genealogy & Research Tables
BBQ Reception

Saturday, June 9

8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. Registration
Coffee and Pastries

8:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. Welcome
Mr. Michael Quinn, Montpelier Foundation President
Ms. Rebecca Gilmore Coleman, OCAAHS President

9:00 a.m. - 10:45 a.m. The Madison Plantation Landscape
Dr. Matthew Reeves,
Montpelier Foundation Archaeology Director

11:00 a.m. - 11:45 a.m. Keynote Address
Dr. Henry Louis Gates, Jr.

Noon - 1:30 p.m. Lunch

1:30 p.m. - 2:15 p.m. The African-American DNA "Roots Project"
Dr. Bruce Jackson

2:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. Genealogy Discussion
Dr. Dianne Swann-Wright & Mr. Robert Vernon

3:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. Genealogy & Research Tables
Tours of Gilmore Cabin & Freedman's Farm

7:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. Dinner Banquet with Guest Speakers
Dr. John Hope Franklin
Mr. Roger Wilkins

Sunday, June 10

9:30 a.m. - 10:15 a.m. Wreath Laying Ceremony at Slave Cemetery

10:30 a.m. - 11:45 a.m. Tent Service
Led by Rev. Youtha Hardman-Cromwell
Local church choirs

11:45 a.m. - Noon Closing & Goodbyes

12:15 p.m. Optional Lunch - Research & Genealogy Roundtables

Invited Speakers (continued)

Dianne Swann-Wright

Dr. Swann-Wright wrote *A Way Out of No Way: Claiming Family and Freedom in the New South*, an engaging book about her family's history. She is currently the Director and Curator of the Frederick Douglas-Isaac Myers Maritime Park in Baltimore, Maryland. Prior to this she was the Director of African American and Special Programs for the Thomas Jefferson Foundation and was involved in *Getting Word: the Monticello African-American Oral History Project*.

Robert Vernon

Mr. Vernon is a genealogist and ethnohistorian who has created an African American Land Ownership Map of Albemarle County through the Carter G. Woodson Institute at the University of Virginia. He is currently compiling information in the hopes of producing a similar map for Orange County.

Roger Wilkins

Mr. Wilkins is the publisher of the NAACP's journal *Crisis*, a board member of the NAACP Legal Defense Fund, and the Clarence J. Robinson Professor of History and American Culture at George Mason University. He was assistant attorney general during the Johnson administration before embarking on a career in journalism. While on *The Washington Post* editorial page staff, he shared a Pulitzer Prize in 1972 for Watergate coverage. Mr. Wilkins has written an acclaimed autobiography, *A Man's Life*, and his 2001 book, *Jefferson's Pillow: The Founding Fathers and the Dilemma of Black Patriots*, won the 2002 NAIBA Book Award for Adult Non-Fiction.

Accommodations

We have reserved blocks of rooms for this event at several hotels. Reservation must be made by May 8, 2007.

Best Western Central Plaza
3000 Plank Road
Fredericksburg, VA 22401
540-786-7404

Best Western Culpeper Inn
791 Madison Road
Culpeper, VA 22701
540-825-1253

Double Tree Hotel
990 Hilton Heights Road
Charlottesville, VA 22901
434-973-2121

Inn at Westwood Farm
12256 Montford Road
Orange, VA 22960
888-661-1293

Registration Information

To register for this event please complete the accompanying form and return it to:

The Montpelier Slave Descendants Reunion
The Montpelier Foundation
P.O. Box 911
Orange, Virginia 22960

You can obtain additional copies of this brochure and the registration form from the web sites below, or by con-

tacting us by mail or phone. If you have any questions, please contact:

C. Thomas Chapman
Research Coordinator
The Montpelier Foundation
tchapman@montpelier.org
540-672-2728 ext. 424

<http://montpelier-reunion.org>

<http://www.montpelier.org>

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