



2022 Michigan Freedom Trail Commission Heritage Gathering

Saturday, September 17, 2022 8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Michigan History Center

| | | |
|------------------------|--|---------|
| 8:30 – 9:00 a.m. | Registration and coffee | Rotunda |
| 9:00 – 9:15 a.m. | Opening Remarks and Commission Updates | Forum |
| 9:15 – 9:45 a.m. | Railroad Ties (video) | Forum |
| 9:45 a.m. – 10:45 a.m. | <p>Treasures at the Archives of Michigan <i>Kris Rzepczynski</i> Commissioner: Amanda Campbell</p> <p>An introduction to the Archives of Michigan, this program with Kris Rzepczynski will explore the local history and genealogical collections available there, including original source records, published resources and online tools at Michiganology. Kris has worked at the Archives of Michigan for more than 10 years.</p> | Forum |
| 11:00 a.m. – noon | <p>1862: The Year the Underground Railroad Changed <i>Amanda Campbell-Crawford & Roy E. Finkenbine</i> Commissioner: Angela Dillard</p> <p>Amanda Campbell-Crawford of the U.S. Forest Service and Roy E. Finkenbine, Professor of History at the University of Detroit Mercy, will discuss how the Civil War and the Homestead Act changed the context for freedom seekers in Michigan in 1862. Both are members of the Michigan Freedom Trail Commission.</p> | Forum |
| Noon – 1:00 p.m. | Lunch and socializing | Rotunda |
| 1:00 – 1:35 p.m. | <p>Designating September as International Underground Railroad Month: The Ohio Example <i>Greg Roberts</i> Commissioner: Robin Peebles</p> <p>Greg Roberts of the Ohio River National Freedom Corridor will discuss Ohio's achievement of permanent legislative designation of September as International Underground Railroad Month -- and its significance for tourism.</p> | Forum |

| | | |
|-------------------------|---|--------------|
| <p>1:45 – 2:45 p.m.</p> | <p>Black Farming Settlements and the Underground Railroad <i>Anna-Lisa Cox; comment by Jill Rowe and William Lawson</i> Commissioner: Amanda Campbell</p> <p>Anna-Lisa Cox, a fellow at Harvard University's Hutchins Center for African and African American Research, will discuss these settlements in the antebellum Midwest, the role they played in the Underground Railroad, and her continuing conversations with Michigan descendants of these communities. Cox is the author of <i>BONE AND SINEW OF THE LAND: AMERICA'S FORGOTTEN BLACK PIONEERS AND THE STRUGGLE FOR EQUALITY</i>.</p> <p>Two descendants of these settlements, Jill Rowe and William Lawson, will offer comment on Cox's talk. Rowe is also the author of <i>INVISIBLE IN PLAIN SIGHT</i>, a study of black farming settlements in antebellum Ohio. Lawson is a Van Buren County farmer and the descendant of freedom seekers. His farms have been in the family since 1863.</p> | <p>Forum</p> |
| <p>2:45 – 3:00 p.m.</p> | <p>Closing Remarks and Thoughts</p> | <p>Forum</p> |