

This program presented in collaboration with:



The Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society, Inc.

Metro Atlanta Chapter

The Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society, Inc. (AAHGS) is a national non-profit membership organization committed to the preservation of the history, genealogy, and culture of the African-ancestor populations of the local, national, and international community.

AAHGS stresses the importance of African American history and genealogy by encouraging active participation in researching, recording, and documenting personal family histories.

www.aahgsatl.org

The Enduring Chronicle:

Civil Rights and The Railroads



ALL ABOARD!

Saturday, February 15, 2014

**The National Archives At Atlanta
5780 Jonesboro Road
Morrow, Georgia**

The African American experience on the railroad from slavery to Civil Rights is an important part of the American story. Since its beginning, African Americans played a significant role in the development of the railroads. The railroad was a key factor to the great migration from the south to northern states. The struggles, set-backs, and advances of Civil Rights were connected to these same rails and the trains that ran upon them.

Within the holdings of the National Archives at Atlanta are records that document this unique connection of Civil Rights with the railroads. Found in the federal court records of Tennessee is one of the earliest Civil Rights cases; the story of Sallie Robinson's denial to first-class accommodations on the Memphis and Charleston Railroad in 1879. Her journey will not only take her from Grand Junction, Tennessee to Lynchburg, Virginia but all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court in 1883.

In the records of the U.S. Railroad Administration is hidden the account of the Negro Porters vs. The Southern Railway System. In 1921 these African American porters attempted to organize and stand up against one of the largest railroads of their day. Although unsuccessful, this challenge foresaw the establishment of one of the first African American labor unions in 1925: The Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters. This union and its leader, A. Philip Randolph would play a pivotal role in the story of Civil Rights through World War II, the integration of the military, and the eventual March on Washington.

Morning

- 09:30 A.M. Welcome- Joel Walker, Education Specialist,
National Archives at Atlanta
- 09:35 A.M. "Railroads and the African American Experience"
Sharon McMean-Luki, AAHGS Metro Atlanta Member
- 09:55 A.M. What's 'Wrong' With Civil Rights
Anthony V. Baker. PROFESSOR, John Marshall Law School
- 10:35 A.M. BREAK (10 Mins)
- 10:45 A.M. Skit - AAHGS Metro Atlanta Youth Players
Amina Brooks, Justice Cadet, Aleeza Cadet, Kendrick Banks
- 10:50 A.M. Panel Discussion –
Civil Rights Case Robinson vs. Memphis Charleston Railroad

Anthony V. Baker, Professor, John Marshall Law School
Joel Walker, Education Specialist, National Archives at Atlanta
Emma Davis Hamilton, President AAHGS Metro Atlanta
- 11:15 A.M. Presentation - Robinson Genealogy –
William Durant, AAHGS Metro Atlanta Member
- 11:35 A.M. Film Presentation - Gandy Dancers
- 12:00 P.M. LUNCH

Afternoon

- 01:15 P.M. Love Joy High Choral Ensemble ----- Musical Selections
Dr. Jimmy Cheek – Director
- 01:35 P.M. Civil Rights Railroad Records ----Joel Walker
- 01:55 P.M. "The Kemp Family's Service in Labor & Civil Rights" –
James H. Commander, Family Historian
- 02:10 P.M. "The Journey from Chains to Trains to Change" –
Robert West, Artist/Train Historian
- 04:00 P.M. CLOSING

Emcee- Adolphus Armstrong, AAHGS Metro Atlanta Chapter Member