African Diaspora Heritage Trail (ADHT) International Conference
Our Heritage, Our Future: Preserve; Promote; and Protect

September 24, 2011 | Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada

In Honour of
UN International Year for the People of African Descent
150th Anniversary of African Americans and the American Civil War-2011 to 2015

From the Underground Railroad to Black Studies in North America Today:
Exploring Our Shared Canada-USA
Black Historical, Cultural and Contemporary Experiences

An Integration of the Role of Education in Preserving, Promoting and Protecting Historical Assets
With Cultural Heritage Tourism in the Digital Age

Presented by
Peter Hanes, Information Technologist/Editor
International (Canada-USA-UK) Black Studies, Washington, DC

I. ABSTRACT SUMMARY- Did you know that both Canada and the USA celebrate Black History Month during February? This presentation will survey various shared international (Canada-USA or Canada-USA-UK) Black historical, cultural and contemporary experiences, educational resources and opportunities in the context of Black Studies. The presentation will convey how my work informs a larger narrative for people of African Descent in North America, and links educational resources, including multimedia tools, to the conference theme, memory, commemoration and national/international cultural heritage tourism. It is organized in the spirit of the UN International Year for People of African Descent (2011), our USA National Black History 2011 Theme-African Americans and the U.S. Civil War, and will sketch/highlight various other national/international themes/opportunities for commemoration from 2011 to 2018…pg3

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Black Freedom Days Fact Sheet-A Summary of Key Events in the Abolition of Slavery Worldwide, by CR Gibbs, Historian of the African Diaspora

Overview of International Emancipation Day-August 1, 1834 by Smithsonian Anacostia Museum, Washington, DC

An Historical Overview of Washington, DC’s Emancipation Day, by CR Gibbs

Writing African American Soldiers into the Civil War-Tips for Educators, by CR Gibbs

Association of African American Museums Conference, August 22-25, 2012, Baltimore, MD - Advertisement
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I. ABSTRACT- Did you know that both Canada and the USA celebrate Black History Month during February? This presentation will survey various shared international (Canada-USA or Canada-USA-UK) Black historical, cultural and contemporary experiences, educational resources and opportunities in the context of Black Studies. Black Studies is an interdisciplinary subject area that explores all fields of human endeavour as relates to the past and present culture, experiences, contributions, achievements, characteristics and issues to be overcome, of Black people of African descent (an adaptation of the definition of Black Canadian Studies by Prof. David Divine, Chair Emeritus in Black Canadian Studies, Dalhousie University, Halifax, Nova Scotia). Per request of the conference planners, the presentation will convey how my work informs a larger narrative for people of African Descent in North America, and links educational resources, including multimedia tools, to the conference theme, memory, commemoration and national/international cultural heritage tourism. It is organized in the spirit of the UN International Year for People of African Descent (2011), our USA National Black History 2011 Theme- African Americans and the U.S. Civil War, and will sketch/ highlight various other national/ international themes/opportunities for commemoration from 2011 to 2018.

Intended Audience-educators, archivists, museum professionals, cultural organizations, cultural heritage tourism professionals.

Expected Objectives/Anticipated Impact of Presentation- to provide an overview on the above subject area to help arm ADHT delegates with further knowledge that they may consider when planning, designing and implementing programs, projects, exhibits, outreach and marketing.

Distance Learning/Multimedia Tools- Education plays a crucial role in telling the story of our shared Canada-USA Black Historical Experiences to the national/international public, especially our next generations. Multimedia tools to tell the story include:

- film/video (a most powerful medium to draw people to a particular subject);
- global distance learning tools such as websites, searchable webdatabases, live and archived webvideo and webaudio, and email updates;
- social networking media like FACEBOOK and TWITTER.
Such tools need to be: historically accurate; professional in appearance and function; easy to read/hear; and kept up-to-date. Involve technology professionals with youth, especially high school and college students, in the development and telling of such digital stories to reach the public, especially our next generations. The presentation will offer examples of applications of global distance learning tools.

II. Subtopics that will be surveyed include various transnational and transformative persons, places, events and instruments include:

A. Various legal instruments with absolute impact on the abolition of slavery (see Black Freedom Days by Historian of the African Diaspora CR Gibbs):

- The British Parliament passed the British Abolition of Slave Trade Act on March 25, 1807 to outlaw such trade throughout the British Empire. The measure set in motion an international crusade that ultimately resulted in the outlawing of slavery worldwide;
- The British Imperial Slavery Abolition Act 1833 came into force on August 1, 1834 and abolished slavery in the British Empire and its colonies, an action that fueled abolitionist movements worldwide, and led to the subsequent end of slavery in Europe, the Caribbean colonies, the U.S., and South America;
- Emancipation Proclamation-January 1, 1863, issued by President Abraham Lincoln;
- District of Columbia Emancipation Act –April 16, 1862 (ties in with the Abolition of Slavery in the British Empire, August 1, 1834), signed into law by President Lincoln;
- 13th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution ending slavery-December 1865.

B. The Underground Railroad (UGRR)-is the resistance to enslavement through the flight to freedom in the Western Hemisphere. Various distinguished figures of the UGRR and Civil War eras include:

- Frederick Douglass, abolitionist | editor | publisher | U.S. Civil War Union Army recruiter | women’s suffragist | District of Columbia Recorder of Deeds | U.S. Marshal for the District of Columbia | Diplomatic positions in Haiti and the Dominican Republic. (visit the Frederick Douglass National Historic Site, Washington, DC);
- Harriet Tubman, Underground Railroad conductor | abolitionist | U.S. Civil War cook, nurse, scout, and spy | women’s suffragist | humanitarian;
- Maj. Martin Robinson Delany, abolitionist, physician, journalist, U.S. Civil War officer (first black person to receive a regular army commission) and union army recruiter;
- Mary Ann Shadd Cary, abolitionist | integrationist | educator | first known Black female newspaper publisher in North America | U.S. Civil War Union Army recruiter | among the first female graduates of Howard University | women’s suffragist (visit Mary Ann Shadd Cary House National Historic Landmark, Washington, DC);
- Thornton and Lucy Blackburn, former enslaved persons who fled from Louisville, KY to freedom in Canada | founded first taxi cab company in Upper Canada | Abolitionists | Philanthropists;
- Rev. William King, abolitionist, Canadian settlement pioneer;
- Ben Jackson, U.S. Navy Seaman | black Nova Scotian fought for the Union during the U.S. Civil War and saved lives;
- Mifflin Wistar Gibbs, businessman and politician;
- William Hall, Victoria Cross (VC), merchant seaman, U.S. Navy seaman, and First Class Petty Officer, British Royal Navy (retired), the first black person, first Nova Scotian, and the first Canadian seaman to receive the Victory Cross, the British Empire’s highest award for bravery in the face of the enemy.

+National Historic Person of Canada
C. Further American Civil War International Connections, include:

- Approximately 200,000 black soldiers and 18,000 black sailors fought for the Union in the American Civil War. Blacks who served in the U.S. Colored Troops (USCT) hailed from the U.S., Native American tribes, Canada, the Caribbean, South America, and Africa. Blacks who served in the Union Navy also hailed from varied places: North America (the U.S., Canada and Mexico), the Caribbean, South America, Africa, Europe, Asia, the Pacific Ocean area, and Australia;
- Washington, DC’s Black Civil War Regiment- Blacks from the Eastern Seaboard States, Canada, and the Caribbean served in the 1st Regiment, U.S. Colored Troops. (see Black, Copper, & Bright: the District of Columbia’s Black Civil War Regiment, by C.R. Gibbs);
- Distinguished Black surgeons Dr. A.T. Augusta and his mentee Dr. Anderson Ruffin Abbott;
- U.S. National Park Service Civil War Soldiers and Sailors System;
- National Institutes of Health National Library of Medicine Exhibits- African Americans in Civil War Medicine (onsite, online and travelling exhibits);
- African American Civil War Freedom Memorial Foundation & Museum;
- Parks Canada Black Heritage Portal;
- Lest We Forget Publications. Posted from the April, 1995 ed. Of historical quarterly, Lest We Forget -The history of Afro-British North Americans and Afro-Others Who Fought in the United States Colored Troops for the Freedom of Afro-Americans During the War of the Rebellion - - Co-Researched by Edward Milligan and Tom Brooks;
- A World on Fire, by Amanda Foreman, the story of the major role Britain and its citizens played in the American Civil War;
- Writing African American Soldiers into the Civil War, Tips for Educators, by C.R. Gibbs.

D. Further Selected Canada-USA Connections- WWI-Canada’s only All-black battalion of WWI, the No. 2 Construction Battalion. Blacks from Canada, the USA, and the Caribbean served in the unit.

III. Selected National/International Marketing Tools/Tips

A. Track Government legislation/ national/ international events/issues related to various national/ international themes/opportunities for commemoration from 2011 to 2018:

   UN International Year for People of African Descent (2011);

   National Black History 2011 Theme-African Americans and the U.S. Civil War;
      150th Anniversary of the U.S. Civil War – 2011 to 2015;
      --150th Anniversary of the District of Columbia Emancipation Act-April 16, 2012;
      --150th Anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation-January 1, 2013;
      --100th Anniversary of International Icon Harriet Tubman’s Passing-March 10, 2013;

   200th Anniversary of the War of 1812 – 2012 to 2015;


   100th Anniversary of WWI – 2014 to 2018;

   Women’s History Month (March) [annually]
UN Observances—Annual
--International Women’s Day (March 8);
--International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade (March 25);
--Nelson Mandela International Day (July 18);
--International Day of the World's Indigenous People (August 8);
--International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and Its Abolition (August 23);
--International Day for the Abolition of Slavery (December 2);

UN Permanent Memorial to the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade
[Fundraising in progress; Association of African American Museums (AAAM) member Howard Dodson is the brainchild for the project; UN named distinguished actress and singer Melba Moore as UN Goodwill Ambassador for Slavery Memorial.]

B. Tie-in/Integrate such germane historical information into educational events, projects, programs, exhibits, cultural heritage tourism, and marketing.

C. International (Canada-USA-UK) Black Historical, Commemorative, Cultural Heritage Preservation and Cultural Heritage Tourism Opportunities-2011 to 2018 by Peter Hanes. A concept paper submitted to the U.S. Department of State and the Government of Canada Multiculturalism Program, that summarizes and proposes leveraging and synthesizing the above subject opportunities into various inspirational international commemorations that would be mutually beneficial to the above named nations to help educate the international public, especially our next generations, about our shared international Black Historical and Cultural Experiences.

IV. Linking memory to education, preservation, commemoration and tourism—Museums Preserve, Commemorate, and Interpret the African American Military Experience:
African American Civil War Freedom Memorial Foundation & Museum—Hari Jones

V. Contemporary Research in Tri-National Connections—“The State of Black Canadian Studies Today and Canada-USA-UK Ties—Narratives of belonging and ownership of place and space: An exploration of the diaspora within one's own life story” --Prof. David Divine

“Unheard Voices and the journey to an audience which will listen: the use of a participatory research approach combining an autobiographical ethnographic narrative, and case study, in the exploration of how the experience of being a resident in an orphanage for a significant period as a child, influences the life course of males who reside in such institutions. A personal example.”

David Divine resided in an orphanage in Scotland, came to know his birthmother but did not know his father. He raised himself up by his bootstraps to become a senior official in social work education and social work administration in the UK, and among his many distinguished achievements, did pioneering work as the Chair in Black Canadian Studies, Dalhousie University, in Nova Scotia. Through painstaking research and international private investigative work, David learned last year that his birth father was black, served in the U.S. armed forces during WWII, and found his father’s roots and family in South Carolina. He is now working on his autobiography and Ph.D. in sociology at Durham University in the UK, and embraces his UK-Canada-USA heritage.

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VI. Selected Quotes from International Visionaries

A. Abolitionist Frederick Douglass--on slavery, literacy and freedom.

“It was unlawful, as well as unsafe to teach a Slave to read.

‘It will forever unfit him to be a Slave.
He will at once become unmanageable
and of no value to his master.’

“These words sank deep into my heart. From that moment, I understood the pathway from slavery to freedom. Though conscious of the difficulty of learning without a teacher, I set out with high hope and fixed purpose, at whatever cost of trouble, to learn how to read.”

--Abolitionist Frederick Douglass

Visit the Frederick Douglass National Historic Site, Washington, DC

B. Civil Rights Leader Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.—on American Slavery, the Underground Railroad, Freedom and Canada, with linkage to the Civil Rights Movement.

MLK, JR. AND CANADA
Martin Luther King Jr. Massey Lecture #1
Series: Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Massey Lectures (first of five 30-minute lectures)
Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC)

“It is a deep personal privilege to address a nationwide Canadian audience. Over and above any kinship of U.S. citizens and Canadians as North Americans, there is a singular historical relationship between American Negroes and Canadians.”

“Canada is not merely a neighbour to Negroes. Deep in our history of struggle for freedom, Canada was the North Star. The Negro slave, denied education, de-humanized and imprisoned on cruel plantations, knew that far to the north a land existed where a fugitive slave, if he survived the horrors of the journey, could find freedom. The legendary underground railroad started in the south and ended in Canada. The freedom road links us together. Our spirituals, now so widely admired around the world, were often codes. We sang of ‘heaven’ that awaited us, and the slave masters listened in innocence, not realizing that we were not speaking of the hereafter. ‘Heaven’ was the word for Canada and the Negro sang of the hope that his escape on the underground railroad would carry him there.”

“And so standing today in Canada I am linked with the history of my people and its unity with your past. The underground railroad could not bring freedom to many Negroes, yet it did something far greater. It symbolized a hope when freedom was almost an impossible dream. Our spirit never died even though the weight of centuries was a crushing burden. Our freedom was not won a century ago. It is not won today. But some small part of it is in our hands. And we are marching no longer by ones and twos, but in legions of thousands convinced now that it cannot be denied by any human force. Today the question is not whether we shall be free, but by what course we will win.”—Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

--transcribed from CBC digital audio file by Peter Hanes
In November 1967 Martin Luther King delivered the Massey lectures on CBC Radio. The Masseys are a prestigious annual broadcast in which a noted Canadian or international scholar gives a weeklong series of lectures on a political, cultural or philosophical topic. The lectures are named for Vincent Massey, the first Canadian-born Governor General of Canada (1952-59). King’s title for his lectures was Conscience for Change. In the lectures, he talked about race relations, the war in Vietnam, youth and social action and non-violence as a tactic for social change.

See http://www.prx.org/pieces/32924-martin-luther-king-jr-massey-lecture-1#description

Visit: the new Martin Luther King, Jr. National Memorial in Washington, DC; the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historic Site in Atlanta, GA; and other Civil Rights Movement Related Sites

NATIONAL/INTERNATIONAL Black History SAVE THE DATE EVENTS Until August 2012

AUGUST 2011
Harriet Tubman Institute for Research on the Global Migrations of African Peoples
Summer Institute on Slavery, Memory and Citizenship
In Honour of the UN International Year for People of African Descent
Featuring the Inauguration of UNESCO Slave Route Project Itineraries of African Canadian Memory
August 21-27 | York University | Toronto, Ontario, Canada
http://harriet.tubman1.yorku.ca/

SEPTEMBER 2011
Harriet Tubman Day on U.S. Capitol Hill
in support of U.S. Senate Bill S.224 Harriet Tubman National Historical Parks Act
September 14, 2011 | Washington, DC

African Diaspora Heritage Trail International Conference
Held in conjunction with the UN International Year for People of African Descent
September 22-24 | World Trade and Convention Center | Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada
http://adht2011.com/

Congressional Black Caucus Foundation Annual Legislative Conference
September 21-24 | Walter E. Washington Convention Center | Washington, DC

OCTOBER 2011
Fifteenth National War of 1812 Symposium
The Civil War of 1812: War and Disquiet and the New Nation
Sponsored by Reginald F. Lewis Maryland Museum of African American History and Culture
And War of 1812 Consortium, Inc.

Saturday, October 1, 2011 | 9:00 AM to 4:15 PM

Reginald F. Lewis Maryland Museum of African American History and Culture
830 E Pratt Street, Baltimore, MD 21202
Website: http://www.africanamericanculture.org/
Phone: 443-263-1800
Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH) Annual Convention
2011 National Black History Theme: African Americans and the Civil War

October 5 - 9, 2011

Richmond Marriott | 500 East Broad Street | Richmond, VA 23219
1-888-236-2427 | www.marriott.com
ASALH Website: http://www.asalh.org/96thconvention.html
ASALH Phone: 202-238-5910

Mount Vernon Annual Slave Memorial Commemoration
Sponsored by Mount Vernon Ladies’ Association and Black Women United for Action

Saturday, October 8, 2011, 11 AM to 1 PM

Historic Mount Vernon
3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway
Mount Vernon, VA 22309
Website: http://www bwufa.org/
BWUFA Phone: 703-922-5757

Martin Luther King, Jr. National Memorial Dedication
Sponsored by Washington, DC Martin Luther King, Jr. National Memorial Project Foundation
And U.S. National Park Service

Sunday, October 16, 2011

Tidal Basin, West Potomac Park | Washington, DC
http://www.dedicatethedream.org/

Washington, DC Host Committee-MLK, Jr. National Memorial Dedication Events
October 13-16, 2011
http://www.mlkdchostcommittee.com/

MLK, Jr. National Memorial Virtual Tour
http://www.mlkmemorial.org/site/c.hkiUL9MVJxE/b.6021495/k.7E74/Virtual_Tour_Flyover.htm

INTERNATIONAL UNDERGROUND RAILROAD MEMORIAL MONUMENTS
REDEDICATION/ 10th ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATION
October 19-22, 2011
Detroit, Michigan/ Windsor, Ontario, Canada

Website: http://liberalarts.udmercy.edu/programs/depts/history/railroad/index.htm
Contacts:
Media Contact: Dr. Roy E. Finkenbine [email: finkenre@udmercy.edu or phone: 313-993-3250];
Conference Info: Kimberly Simmons [email: detroitriverproject@gmail.com or phone: 313-651-5367].

International Underground Railroad Memorial Monuments Conference
Wednesday, October 19-Friday, October 21, 2011
“Celebrating, the River at Midnight - the Fluid Frontier: Slavery, War, Freedom and the Underground Railroad”
Produced by the International Underground Railroad Monument 10th Anniversary Planning Committee-Detroit
Sponsored by the Detroit River Project in partnership with University of Detroit Mercy

**International Underground Railroad Memorial Monuments Rededication**
Saturday, October 22, 2011
11 AM, Hart Plaza, Detroit/
1 PM, Charles Clark Square on the Historic Detroit River, Windsor, Ontario Canada

Produced jointly by International Underground Railroad Monument 10th Anniversary Planning Committee-Detroit & Windsor
Sponsored by the University of Detroit Mercy (Detroit) & Caesar's Windsor (Windsor)

**FEBRUARY 2012-Black History Month**

**USA**

**WASHINGTON, DC AREA EVENTS**
Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture Groundbreaking
February, 2012 | Washington, DC | [http://www.nmaahc.si.edu](http://www.nmaahc.si.edu)

Association for the Study of African American Life and History [http://www.asalh.org](http://www.asalh.org)
Association of African American Museums [http://www.blackmuseums.org](http://www.blackmuseums.org)

**CANADA**


**NOVA SCOTIA**
Canada Post Viola Desmond Stamp National Launch
*Honouring the late distinguished Civil Rights icon*
Sponsored by the Black Cultural Centre for Nova Scotia and Canada Post
February 1, 2012 | Cherry Brook, Nova Scotia, Canada
[http://www.bccns.com](http://www.bccns.com) | Phone: 902-434-6223


Black Cultural Centre for Nova Scotia [http://www.bccns.com](http://www.bccns.com)
ONTARIO
Ontario Black History Society http://www.blackhistorysociety.ca/
North American Black Historical Museum http://www.blackhistoricalmuseum.org/
Buxton National Historical Site http://www.buxtonmuseum.com/
Black History Ottawa http://www.blackhistoryottawa.org/

MARCH 2012-USA Women’s History Month

U.S. Government Women’s History Month web portal http://womenshistorymonth.gov/

State of Maryland Harriet Tubman 99th Anniversary Remembrance Events-March 7-31, 2012
Events marking Tubman’s passing- March 10, 1913 | For more information visit/contact:

Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad (UGRR) State Park Initiative
http://www.dnr.state.md.us/publiclands/eastern/tubman.asp

Lou Fields [FACEBOOK: http://www.facebook.com/loucfields | email: loucfields@gmail.com ]

Emmart-Pierpont UGRR Safehouse [web: http://mysite.verizon.net/epsafehousesupik/ | email: epsafehousesupik@verizon.net

APRIL 2012
Titanic: The Untold Story Play World Premiere
A story about the only Black man aboard the Titanic
Centennial Commemoration of the Titanic’s Sinking
An Anthony Sherwood Productions Play | Presented by the Alderney Landing Theatre
April 2-10, 2012 | 2 Ochterloney Street | Dartmouth, NS B2Y 3Z3, Canada
http://www.alderneylanding.com/ | Box Office: 902-461-8401 email: linda@alderneylanding.com

150th Anniversary District of Columbia Emancipation Commemoration
Educational and celebratory events marking the April 16, 1862 District of Columbia Emancipation Act signed by President Abraham Lincoln, that abolished slavery in Washington, DC.
April 9 - 23, 2012 | Washington, DC
www.os.dc.gov | phone: 202-671-1105

Sierra Leone Past and Present International Conference 2012
A conference that will assess current scholarship on the history of Sierra Leone in its global context. The importance of Sierra Leone in the history of slavery, the abolition movement, colonialism, and inter-continental migration cannot be questioned.
April 20-24, 2012 | Fourah Bay College | Freetown, Sierra Leone
Sponsors: Sierra Leone Public Archives • Department of History, Fourah Bay College • Harriet Tubman Institute for Research on the Global Migrations of African Peoples, York University • Canada Research Chair in African Diaspora History • Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada | University of Worcester
http://harriet.tubman1.yorku.ca/events/sierra_leone_past_and_present_international_conference_2012
JUNE 2012
Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad Conference
Connecting the Pieces of the Puzzle: Families, Communities and Strategies for Freedom
June 1-2, 2012 | Chesapeake College | Cambridge, MD
http://www.tubmanugrr.net/TubmanUGRR/Home.html

National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Conference
Escaping to Destinations South: The Underground Railroad, Cultural Identity, and Freedom Along the Southern Border-lands.
June 20-24, 2012 | St. Augustine, FL
http://www.nps.gov/subjects/ugrr/community/2012-annual-conference.htm

JULY 2012
Black Cultural Centre for Nova Scotia
WWI No. 2 Construction Battalion Annual Commemorative Ceremony
Honoring Canada’s only all-black battalion of WWI;
Blacks from Canada, the USA, and the Caribbean served in the unit.
July 7, 2012 | deCoste Centre | Pictou, Nova Scotia, Canada
http://www.bccns.com/

AUGUST 2012
Association of African American Museums Conference
August 22 - 25, 2012 | Baltimore, MD
www.blackmuseums.org

SEPTEMBER 2012
African Diaspora Heritage Trail 2012 International Conference
A UNESCO Slave Route Project Endorsed Event
September 16-19, 2012 | Barbados

Congressional Black Caucus Foundation Annual Legislative Conference
September 19-22, 2012 | Walter E. Washington Convention Center | Washington, DC
http://www.cbcfinc.org/

Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH) Annual Convention
2012 National Black History Theme: Black Women in American History and Culture
September 26-30, 2012 | Pittsburg, PA
http://www.asalh.org/ | Phone: 202-238-5910
January 1, 1804  Haiti celebrates independence. This country is the first modern nation to be led by a person of African descent. Haiti is the world’s only example of a successful slave revolt leading to the establishment of an internationally recognized nation or republic. Celebrations of Haiti’s existence and achievements take place throughout the Black Diaspora.

September 15, 1829  Mexico abolishes slavery.

March 25, 1807  The British Parliament passes the 1807 Abolition of Slave Trade Act to outlaw such trade throughout the British Empire. The Act prohibited British ships from being involved in the slave trade and marked the start of the end of the transatlantic traffic of human beings. A year later, the Royal Navy’s West African Squadron is established to suppress transatlantic slave trading. Over the next 60 years, the squadron’s anti-slavery operations along the West Coast of Africa and into East Africa and the Caribbean enforced the ban. William Wilberforce, the British Parliamentary leader of the anti-slavery movement, with key allies Thomas Clarkson, Olaudah Equiano and others, led the successful effort to convince the Parliament to pass the Act. The measure set in motion an international crusade that ultimately resulted in the outlawing of slavery worldwide.

August 1, 1834  The 1833 Slavery Abolition Act takes effect to abolish slavery throughout the British Empire. At this time, the Empire spanned several continents and encompassed parts of the Caribbean, Africa, Canada, India, China, Australia, and South America as far as the tip of Argentina. Also at this time, there are about 800,000 enslaved persons in the British West Indies. This historic action fueled abolition movements worldwide that led to slavery’s end in Europe, the Caribbean colonies, the United States, and South America. Annual observances still occur in Trinidad, Jamaica, and Guyana. The Caribbean Historical Society leads present-day efforts to make August 1st, International Emancipation Day worldwide.

April 27, 1848  The French republic decrees the end of slavery in its empire. Annual commemorations occur in France and some former French Caribbean colonies.

April 16, 1862  President Abraham Lincoln signs the District of Columbia Emancipation Act which abolishes slavery in the District and provides the only example of compensation by the Federal Government of former slaveholders for the freedom of the enslaved persons.

June 19, 1862  Slavery is ended in all United States territories, e.g. Utah, Nevada, and Colorado, et al.

January 1, 1863  President Abraham Lincoln signs the Emancipation Proclamation. Yearly observances take place in Black communities in the East and South.

July 1, 1863  Holland frees its enslaved persons.

June 19, 1865  Union Army General Gordon Granger lands in Galveston, Texas, and issues General Order No. 3 bringing an end to slavery and equality before the law. Juneteenth celebrations commence.

December 6, 1865  The U.S. Congress ratifies the 13th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution ending slavery.

May 13, 1888  Slavery ends in Brazil.

1868 – 1888  Slavery is abolished in Cuba, Puerto Rico, Brazil, etc. Yearly observances were held often.

Note:  Many Caribbean and South American countries substituted their respective independence celebrations for earlier emancipation festivities.
About International Emancipation Day…

“The day we celebrate is preeminently the colored man’s day. Whosoever else may forget or slight the claims of this day, it can never be other to us than memorable and glorious.” -- Frederick Douglass, at a celebration of Emancipation Day in New York on August 1, 1880.

On August 1, 1834, the British Empire abolished chattel slavery within all of its colonies. At that time, the British Empire spanned several continents and encompassed parts of the Caribbean, Africa, Canada, India, China, Australia, and South America as far south as the tip of Argentina. The historic action fueled abolition movements throughout the world and led to the subsequent cessation of slavery in Europe, the Caribbean colonies, the United States, and South America. Frederick Douglass spoke these words on the importance of this event: “The downfall of slavery under British power meant the downfall of slavery, ultimately, under American power, and the downfall of Negro slavery everywhere.” Continued Douglass, “Outside the British Empire no other nation was in a position to feel it so much as we [the United States]. The stimulus it gave to the American anti-slavery movement was immediate, pronounced, and powerful.”

Historically, peoples of African descent celebrated their freedom and solidarity as Emancipation Day on August 1st. In some parts of the Western Hemisphere, Emancipation Day was celebrated well into the 1950s and 1960s. Eventually the observance was eclipsed by national celebrations of independence from European colonizers. At present, Trinidad, Jamaica, and Guyana continue the tradition by observing August 1st as a public holiday.

The Caribbean Historical Society (CHS) in Port-of-Spain, Trinidad is leading the initiative to revive and promote the international observance of Emancipation Day. Last year, CHS focused its attention on North America. Due to its efforts, several municipalities in the United States and Canada are issuing official declarations to recognize August 1st as Emancipation Day. In February of this year, Mayor Marion Barry issued a proclamation for the District of Columbia. “We believe that these proclamations represent part of our ancestral achievement,” said Nyahuma Obika of the Caribbean Historical Society. “They are as sacred as ashes and hence, must be so treated.” Tonight, the Anacostia Museum will receive the DC Proclamation of Emancipation Day into its archival collection.

In celebration of this compelling history, the Anacostia Museum and Center for African American History and Culture proudly presents the International Emancipation Day Program. This event provides a wonderful opportunity to promote understanding of the African Diaspora—a connection amongst the people of African descent scattered around the world that transcends geography and language. Building upon our annual celebration of Juneteenth, an historic celebration commemorating the liberation of Texas slaves, and other emancipation celebrations in the metropolitan area, International Emancipation Day provides another opportunity to reflect on the sacredness of freedom.

Issued by the Smithsonian Institution for the May 7, 1997 International Emancipation Day Awareness Program, held at the Smithsonian Hirshhorn Museum & Sculpture Garden, Washington, DC.
An Historical Overview of Washington, DC’s Emancipation Day

by C.R. Gibbs, Historian

April 16, 1862 marks the abolition of slavery in the District of Columbia. Over 3,000 enslaved persons were freed eight months before the Emancipation Proclamation liberated slaves in the South. The District also has the distinction of being the only part of the United States to have compensated slave owners for freeing enslaved persons they held.

The struggle to end slavery in the District was long and arduous. From the city’s beginning, various individuals and groups, with often diverse motives, signed anti-slavery petitions, wrote negative newspaper articles, and openly deplored the wide open practice of slavery and slave trading that occurred all over the city. Incidents such as Nat Turner’s 1831 rebellion in Virginia, and Snow Riot of 1835, the Pearl Affair and Riot in 1848, and the presence of the local Underground Railroad also highlighted the issue of slavery in the District.

As thousands of blacks flocked to the Nation’s capital seeking a haven from bondage during the early years of the Civil War, pressure increased on President Abraham Lincoln to take a bold step. With the help of Henry Wilson of Massachusetts, Lincoln got the bill through Congress. On April 16, 1862, he issued the following document:

Fellow-Citizens of the Senate and the House of Representatives:

The act entitled “an act for the release of certain persons held to service or labor in the District of Columbia,” has this day been approved and signed.

I have never doubted the constitutional authority of Congress to abolish slavery in this district, and I have ever desired to see the National Capital freed from the institution in some satisfactory way. Hence there has never been in my mind any question upon the subject except the one of expediency, arising in view of all the circumstances. If there be matters within and about this act which might have taken a course or shape more satisfactory to my judgments, I do not attempt to specify them. I am gratified that the two principles of compensation and colonization are both recognized and practically applied in the act.

In the matter of compensation, it is provided that claims may be presented within ninety days from the passage of the act, “but not thereafter”, and there is no savings for minors, *femae covert*, insane or absent persons, I presume this is an omission by mere oversight, and I recommend that it be supplied by an amendatory or supplemental act.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

Washington, April 16, 1862.

Published text of emancipation decree in the District of Columbia (from Frank Leslie’s *Illustrated Weekly*).

continued
News of Lincoln’s action raced through the city. The joy in the District’s black community was dramatic and profound. One black District citizen wrote to a friend in Baltimore, “This indeed has been a happy day to me sights have I witnessed that I have anticipated.”

He then described how he gave the happy news to two female friends of his, one of whom had an enslaved son:

> When I entered they perceived that something was ahead and immediately [sic] asked me “What’s the news?” The District’s free says I pulling out the “National Republic” and reading its editorial. When I had finished the chambermaid had left the room sobbing for joy. The slave women clapped her hands and shouted, left the house saying, “let me go and tell my husband that Jesus has done all things well.” While the cook who is free retired to another room to offer thanks for the blessing sent. Should I not feel glad to see so much rejoicing around me? Were I a drinker I would get on a Jolly spree today, but as a Christian I can but kneel in prayer and bless God for the privilege I’ve enjoyed this day….Would to God that the Law applied also to Baltimore but a little patience and all will be well.

The “Anglo-African,” a black newspaper published in New York, placed the event into a national perspective with an editorial that included the following words:

> It was a fitting celebration of the anniversary of Fort Sumter, that Congress should pass a bill to emancipate the capital from the thrall of slavery forever. Henceforth, whatever betide the national, its physical heart is freed from the presence of slavery….

April 16th remained a special day in the hearts of the District’s black residents. On the first emancipation day anniversary after the end of the Civil War, the city’s black community organized a huge parade. The District of Columbia emancipation day parade became an annual event that continued into the early years of the twentieth century.
Ten tips to help create texts, lesson plans, knowledge, and positive student experiences that will support and develop a working knowledge of the contributions of soldiers of African descent in the American Civil War.

1. USE PRIMARY SOURCES
In anticipation of the civil war sesquicentennial, an unprecedented number of first-hand accounts of the events, practices, or conditions surrounding the employment of black troops is now available, including online archives, which, in the interests of your time, I encourage you to use. Reputable general online websites such as the Library of Congress (www.loc.gov), click on "American Memory") will be useful but for specific data on black soldiers visit sites such as "Lest We Forget,"(www.lwfaah.net).

2. MAKE THE LESSON AGE-APPROPRIATE
Select relevant information that fits the life experiences of your class, is instructor-friendly, comprehensive, and allows the student to think about the causes, issues, and results of the war on the African American experience.

3. WHEN YOU SEARCH THE INTERNET
Look for collections of classroom curricula and other resources that include a broad range of materials to enhance the student encounter with the entire period such as photos, videos, and music-not just documents- keeping in mind that whatever you develop must be consistent with relevant education and learning standards.

4. MAKE YOUR MATERIAL STUDENT-CENTERED
One way to do this is to focus on the experiences of African American soldiers or sailors closest to the age of your class, e.g. drummer boys such as Bannister Jackson or Thomas Crier, to increase student identification with the subject matter and be sure to discuss not only their reasons for wanting to serve but the hardships and conditions they were likely to have faced as young teenagers.

5. USE IMMERSIVE ACTIVITIES
Have your students eat the food, wear the clothes, or research the period well enough to write letters (or even plays) about the black soldiers, as if they lived 150 years ago. Recipes, clothing patterns, and actual letters are available online. Even the legendary hardtack biscuits can be purchased from one of the same companies that made them for Union soldiers long ago. The United States Colored Troops Living History Association website (www.usctlha.net/) can connect you with African American Civil War re-enactors who will come to your school and it provides links to other helpful information on black Civil War soldiers.

6. DON'T FORGET TO STUDY THE FAMILIES
War wreaks havoc on the families of soldiers; that is true even today. Assign projects that familiarize your students with the special circumstances that affected many families of the men of African descent who served in the Union army, e.g., when they refused to accept lower pay because of their race, it created great financial hardship for many wives and children. How did they cope with it? How did black women compensate for the loss of such income?

7. BROADEN YOUR SCOPE
Not every member of the U.S. Colored Troops was a black American. Black men came from throughout the diaspora to fight to destroy slavery in the United States: Africa, South America, Canada, the Caribbean, and many other places. There were also some Native Americans in the U.S. Colored Troops. Research the stories of these units and individuals and tell them.

8. THE SCIENCE OF BATTLE
Battles such as Fort Wagner, Port Hudson, and New Market Heights, in which black soldiers played significant roles and displayed conspicuous courage also present great opportunities to study mathematics, physics, chemistry, geometry, and other sciences. Have the students learn how small arms, artillery, forts, and battlefields are designed using numbers to be effective.

9. CIVIL WAR GENEALOGY
Over 200,000 men of African descent served in the northern army and yet only a handful of their descendants are known today. There are a host of books, articles and websites to assist in "finding your civil war ancestor." Have the students try to find one of theirs. They can start with the National Archives website (www.archives.gov).

10. PUBLIC SERVICE PROJECTS
Students in several states, including Ohio and Pennsylvania, have had success in locating, documenting, and preserving lost, neglected, or forgotten Civil War-era cemeteries. There are a number of African American soldiers from some of the war's most famous units buried in poorly maintained cemeteries at St. Elizabeth's Hospital in Washington, D.C. The cemeteries at Walter Pierce Park in Adams Morgan and Woodlawn in northeast D.C., for example, would also benefit greatly from dedicated student assistance.
The Association of African American Museums (AAAM) Salutes
2011 African Diaspora Heritage Trail International Conference;
Join AAAM and our 2012 AAAM Conference | August 22-25, 2012 | Baltimore, MD

AAAM shares the vision of the African Diaspora Heritage Trail (ADHT), the international cultural
tourism initiative that promotes socially conscious travel to sites identified as relevant and important to
the global narrative of the history and culture of people of African descent. The ADHT is designed to
educate visitors and safeguard the core values and creativity of African history and culture.

AAAM salutes the ADHT Foundation, the Office of African Nova Scotian Affairs, and ADHT
conference partners, supporters and presenters for creating an inspiring learning environment for all
committed to protecting, preserving, interpreting and promoting African Diaspora heritage destinations.

AAAM is a non-profit member organization established to support African and African American
focused museums nationally and internationally, and the professionals and volunteers who protect,
preserve and interpret African and African American art, history and culture. Established as the single
representative and principal voice of the African American museum movement, the Association seeks to
strengthen and advocate for the interests of institutions and individuals committed to the preservation of
African-derived cultures. The services provided by AAAM enhance the ability of those museums and
other educational institutions to serve the needs and interests of persons of African ancestry and those
who wish to know more about the art, history and culture of African-derived cultures.

Join AAAM and take part in our 2012 AAAM Conference, to be held August 22-25, 2012 in
Baltimore, Maryland. Discover Baltimore’s renowned attractions, including the Reginald F. Lewis
Maryland African American Museum of History & Culture, historic neighborhoods and great restaurants,
all within walking distance of the world-famous Inner Harbor.

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