



Stockton Opened Semester-long Celebration of the 150th Anniversary of African American Soldiers in the Civil War

Events Commemorate the Official Enlistment of African Americans

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Galloway Township, NJ- This year marks the 150th anniversary of African American soldiers officially being able to enlist in the Union Army during the Civil War, a result of the 1863 Emancipation Proclamation issued by President Abraham Lincoln. To commemorate the African American soldiers who fought in the Civil War, The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey hosted an opening ceremony to introduce the semester-long series of events celebrating their service.

The ceremony, which took place Tuesday afternoon, began with a presentation of colors, readings of Civil War letters, songs and hymns, a performance by African American Civil War re-enactors, and a display of Civil War images and artifacts, all planned by a diverse 36-member committee of Atlantic County representatives over a seven-month time span.

An exhibit in the Stockton College Richard E. Bjork Library, titled "Galloway's Graveyard: Unearthing the History of the Boling Settlement," officially opened during the ceremony to showcase artifacts from the Boling family, an African American family who settled in Port Republic before the Civil War.

Members of the Boling family fought in the Civil War and are buried in the triangular-shaped cemetery at the intersection of Pomona and Moss Mill Roads in Port Republic. The exhibit was curated by two graduate students, Kevin Konrad and Jesse Kraft, in the Master of Arts in American Studies program and overseen by Professor of British Literature Thomas Kinsella.

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Distinguished Professor of Art Wendel White first began researching the Boling settlement and the cemetery more than two decades ago. When he first learned of the cemetery, White was working on a book project. "It wasn't until I took photos at the cemetery that the book took shape," he said.

The images in White's book, *Small Towns, Black Lives*, "weave a visual representation of the present accompanied by the collective memories of the communities," he explained.

To create the Library exhibit, Konrad and Kraft did documentary research and went through hundreds of pages of archived materials such as deeds and requests from Civil War widows for pensions. The photos and materials that they studied were originally scanned and archived by Wendel White and the Egg Harbor City Historical Society.

The following is a listing of the events planned throughout the semester:

Symposium on African Americans in the Civil War

Tuesday, February 5, 2013, 8 a.m.-5:00 p.m.
Stockton College Campus Center Theater

"Romance on the Battlefield with African Americans of the Civil War"

Presentation by a local African American Civil War re-enactors organization in conjunction with the Unified Black Students Society and Stockton College NAACP
Thursday, February 14, 2013, 2 p.m.-4:30 p.m.
Stockton College Performing Arts Center (PAC)

"African American Civil War Sites Bus Tour"

Tour the African American Heritage Museum of South Jersey with Ralph Hunter and the exhibit in Stockton's Library, "Galloway's Graveyard: Unearthing the History of the Boling Settlement."
Monday, March 4, 2013, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

"We Remember"

A staged reading of post-Civil War letters written by and about the Bolings with popular music of that period.
Thursday, March 7, 2013, 6 p.m.-9 p.m.
Stockton College Campus Center Theater

"African American Soldiers in New Jersey"

Presented by author Dr. Joseph Bilby.
Tuesday, March 19, 2013, 2:30 p.m.
Showing of the movie "Glory" with a panel discussion at 6 p.m. in the Campus Center Theater.

The events are free and open to the public. RSVP to Delores Mozelle-Wright by emailing Delores.Mozelle-Wright@stockton.edu or calling 609-652-4764.

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