



PRESS RELEASE

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Kate McDermott 717.260.1861 x. 1211

kmcdermott@nationalcivilwarmuseum.org

NATIONAL CIVIL WAR MUSEUM
DEBUTS AFRICAN AMERICAN ORAL
HISTORY PROJECT

(HARRISBURG) The National Civil War Museum (NCWM), located in Harrisburg, PA, announces the introduction of an oral history project to capture remembrances of local citizens who trace their ancestry back to the Civil War era.

The first installment of the NCWM Oral History Project focuses on three African American family narratives, one national and two local civil war combat veterans. Ephraim Slaughter and Robert Smalls were enslaved men who escaped to freedom and then joined federal forces to liberate all enslaved people during the Civil War and Reconstruction. A third George H. Imes was a free person who volunteered to fight for the freedom of others.

Their stories are narrated by their contemporary family members and placed in local and national historic context by Washington D.C. historians Hari Jones, and Harrisburg historian Calobe Jackson.

“This African American Oral History Project helps demonstrate the level of commitment and sacrifice made by African Americans in our nation’s elimination of slavery and the advancement of human and civil rights before, during and after the U.S. Civil War.” Burt Snyder, NCWM Board Chairman, said.

“This is the museum’s first NCWM Oral History project, which has been underwritten by local sponsors,” Wayne Motts, NCWM CEO said today. “We hope to collect more oral histories and add to the film program in the future.”

The NCWM African American Oral History project will debut with a one-hour film, crafted from more than seven hours of family oral history interviews, on Saturday, August 27, 2016 at the National Civil War Museum in Reservoir Park, Harrisburg PA.

Telephone: 717-260-1861 • 1-866-BLU-GRAY • Fax: 717-260-9599
One Lincoln Circle at Reservoir Park • Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17103
www.NationalCivilWarMuseum.org

THE NATIONAL CIVIL WAR MUSEUM[®]

IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

"Although all the seats for the August 27 program have already been reserved, we are working on additional ways to make the Oral History project film available to the public in the future." Motts said.

About The National Civil War Museum

*Opened in February 2001, The National Civil War Museum, a member of the Smithsonian Institution Affiliations Program, is a non-profit private educational institution dedicated solely to the American Civil War. It is one of the largest museums in the world which interprets the entire American Civil War from a military and civilian perspective. The Museum preserves and exhibits some of the nation's treasures, including General Robert E. Lee's personal Bible, and more than 24,000 artifacts, documents and photos. Admission to the Museum is \$12.00 for adults, \$11.00 for seniors, and \$10.00 for students with reduced rates for children and families. The Museum offers complimentary ample parking. For more information, please call 717.260.1861, or visit the Museum's website at www.nationalcivilwarmuseum.org. **Connect with us!** [Facebook.com/TheNationalCivilWarMuseum](https://www.facebook.com/TheNationalCivilWarMuseum); [Twitter.com/NCWM](https://twitter.com/NCWM); and [FourSquare.com/NationalCivilWarMuseum](https://www.foursquare.com/NationalCivilWarMuseum)*

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