



THE EAST TENNESSEE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MUSEUM of EAST TENNESSEE HISTORY

Making history personal

For Immediate Release

Press Contact: Cherel Henderson, Director
865-215-8823 | 865-335-0888
cherel@eastTNhistory.org
www.eastTNhistory.org

August 14, 2012

“Becoming the Great Emancipator: Abraham Lincoln’s Emancipation Proclamation in Context and in Memory” Lecture by William E. Hardy

PROGRAM: “Becoming the Great Emancipator: Abraham Lincoln’s Emancipation Proclamation in Context and in Memory” A Brown Bag Lecture by William E. Hardy followed by an “Emancipation Day” Discussion with Bill Murrah

DATE: Noon, Wednesday, August 22, 2012

LOCATION: East Tennessee History Center
601 South Gay Street
Knoxville, TN 37902

ADMISSION: FREE | Attendees are encouraged to bring a “brown bag” lunch

So many layers of myth envelop the Emancipation Proclamation that its actual content is often misunderstood. Born in the struggle of Abraham Lincoln’s determination to set slavery on the path to destruction, Lincoln’s Emancipation Proclamation remains a document of debate and conflicting interpretations. What were Lincoln’s real intentions? Was he the Great Emancipator of just a Great Fixer? What slaves did the Proclamation actually free? Or did the slaves free themselves? William E. Hardy is a lecturer at Lincoln Memorial University, a Ph.D. candidate in history at the University of Tennessee, and academic coordinator for the ETHS Teaching American History Grant.

Following Mr. Hardy, Bill Murrah will talk briefly about the African American tradition of celebrating August 8 as “Emancipation Day.” The date is said to be associated with the day on which President Andrew Johnson freed his slaves in 1863. Although no evidence exists to prove or disprove this date or event, Murrah and his research team have documented the traditional celebration, which still take place in some communities, not only in the South but in the Midwest and further.

The program is sponsored by 21st Mortgage Corp, and free and open to the public. The lecture will begin at noon at the East Tennessee History Center, 601 S. Gay Street, Knoxville. Guests are invited to bring a “Brown Bag” lunch and enjoy the lecture. Soft drinks will be available. For more information on the lecture, exhibitions, or museum hours, call 865-215-8824 or visit the website at www.EastTNHistory.org.

End Release