

MEMORIES OF A MASSACRE: MEMPHIS IN 1866, A SYMPOSIUM EXPLORING SLAVERY, EMANCIPATION, AND RECONSTRUCTION

University of Memphis, University Center Theater
(499 University Street)
May 20-21, 2016

FRIDAY, MAY 20:

8:15: Welcome by Karen Weddle-West, Provost, University of Memphis

8:30-10:45: Slavery and Slave Life in the Mississippi Valley

- Joshua D. Rothman, University of Alabama, “The Cotton Economy and the Rebirth of American Slavery”
- J. Calvin Schermerhorn, Arizona State, “‘Cash for Slaves’: The African American Trail of Tears”
- Max Grivno, University of Southern Mississippi, “Death on the River: Slavery in the Yazoo-Mississippi Delta”

Moderator: Madeleine C. Taylor, Executive Director, NAACP Memphis

11:00-1:15: Civil War and Emancipation in the Mississippi Valley

- Joseph P. Reidy, Howard University, “Black Soldiers and Sailors: Rebuilding Families and the Nation amidst the Chaos of Civil War in the Mississippi Valley”
- Jim Downs, Connecticut College, “Dying to be Free: The Deadly Consequences of Emancipation”
- John C. Rodrigue, Stonehill College, “From Emancipation to Abolition in Civil-War Tennessee”

Moderator: Femi I. Ajanaku, Director, Center for African & African American Studies, LeMoyne-Owen College

Lunch break

2:15-4:30: Giving Meaning to Freedom

- Susan Eva O’Donovan, University of Memphis, “The Problem of Freedom in the Era of Emancipation”
- Kate Masur, Northwestern University, “Urban Battlegrounds: Reconstruction in Southern Cities”
- Elizabeth L. Jemison, Clemson University, “TBA”

Moderator: Ladrice Menson-Furr, Director of African & African American Studies, University of Memphis

6:00-8:00: Keynote Address (reception at 5:30)

- Robert K. Sutton, Chief Historian of the National Park Service, “The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly of American History: Remembering Reconstruction”

Opening remarks by Ronald A. Walter, President and General Manager, WREG-TV, Memphis

Moderator: Aram Goudsouzian, Chair, Department of History, University of Memphis

SATURDAY, MAY 21:

8:15: Welcome

8:30-10:45: The Memphis Massacre

- Steven V. Ash, University of Tennessee, “A Massacre in Memphis: May 1866”
- Hannah Rosen, College of William and Mary, “Race, Gender, and Sexual Violence during the Memphis Massacre”
- Andrew Slap, East Tennessee State University, “On Duty in Memphis: Fort Pickering’s African American Soldiers”

Moderator: Bobby Lovett, Professor History (Rt.), Tennessee State University

11:00-1:15: The Radicalization of Reconstruction

- Julie Saville, University of Chicago, “Looking Forward: Reconstruction and the Black Organizing Tradition after Slavery”
- Carole Emberton, SUNY-Buffalo, “‘The Violent Bear It Away’: White Responses to Black Political Mobilization during Reconstruction”
- Timothy S. Huebner, Rhodes College, “Constitutionalism and Violence in the Era of Reconstruction”

Moderator: Antoinette Van Zelm, Assistant Director for the Center for Historic Preservation, Middle Tennessee State University

Lunch break

2:15-4:30: Remembering Reconstruction

- Cecelia E. O’Leary, Cal-State Monterey Bay, “‘Lies Agreed Upon’: The Politics of Historical Memory”
- Andre E. Johnson, University of Memphis “‘If I See Next Year’: Henry McNeal Turner and the Rhetorical Legacy of Reconstruction
- Peter R. Gathje, Memphis Theological Seminary, Religion and Reconstruction: Lesson for Today?
- Charles McKinney, Rhodes College, “Reconstruction’s Protean Post-Civil Rights Legacy”

Moderator: Steve Masler, Manager of the Exhibit Department, Pink Palace Museum, Memphis

[maybe a few words in closing by Judge Bernice Donald]