

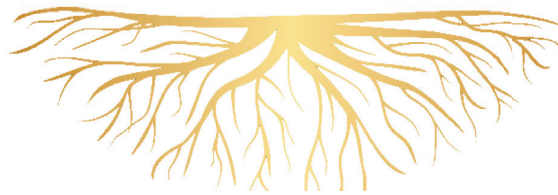
Author-in-Residence and SC Humanities Speakers Bureau Program Information

Renaissance Publications, LLC

Founder: Walter B. Curry, Jr., Ed. D



Renaissance Publications LLC



*“Reviving historical scholarship
through ancestry.”*

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AUTHOR-IN-RESIDENCE: **REAL LIFE HISTORY** with Dr. Walter B. Curry, Jr.

Renaissance Publications, LLC is offering an Author-In-Residence Program for 4th, 8th, and 11th grade social studies classes in public and private and private middle schools in South Carolina supported by the SC Arts Commission Arts Project Support Grant.



Dr. Curry utilizes stories from the past to empower students to embrace their future and create their own pathways. He demonstrates that education was crucial but not singularly sufficient for sustaining his journey to authorship. He emphasizes that it took the intertwining of education and passion to bring his book from research to reality. The engagement includes an exhibition of artifacts and visual art to help give form to the narratives being discussed. Extending the experience, students are giving time to travel through the exhibition and write their reflections.

AT A GLANCE - This residency is for South Carolina Public Schools Grades 4th, 8th, and 11th Grade Social Studies Classes, South Carolina Private Schools South Carolina & U.S History Classes, and South Carolina Homeschools South Carolina & U.S History Classes. The residency complements the South Carolina 4th, 8th, and 11th Grade Social Studies Standards. The residency provides a living history experience from Renaissance Publications, LLC books, *The Thompson Family: Untold Stories From The Past (1830-1960)* and *The Awakening: The Seawright-Ellison Family Saga, Vol.1, A Narrative History*". The residency includes an exhibition of artifacts and visual art to help give form to the narratives being discussed. Extending the experience, the students are given the opportunity to explore the exhibition and complete a scavenger hunt assignment. The books for the residency can be purchased as well.

Available Exhibitions

Slavery & The Civil War - The historical exhibition focuses on ancestral experiences of enslaved relatives of the Thompson Family who lived in rural South Carolina, Aiken and Lexington counties during the Antebellum (1830-1860) and participated in the Civil War (1860-1865). The exhibition highlights the story of an enslaved relative who obtained their freedom; the story of an enslaved relative who's mother was sold at the age of five; and the story of an enslaved woman who served as a cook under her master authority during the Civil War. The exhibition includes replicas, artifacts, visual paintings, and food samples from slavery and the Civil War eras. Stories from the book, *The Thompson Family: Untold Stories From The Past (1830-1960)* are featured in the exhibition.

Agricultural Life - The historical exhibition focuses on agricultural experiences of relatives of the Thompson Family who lived in rural Aiken County, South Carolina, during the post Reconstruction Period. The exhibition highlights the story of a former enslaved relative who became a successful entrepreneur/farmer who produced cane syrup; the story of a relative who incorporated soil conservation practices; the story of a relative along with

Aiken County African American farmers who participated in a field study; and the story of a relative who was sharecropper who picked cotton. The exhibition includes replicas, artifacts, visual paintings, and food samples that highlights relatives' agricultural experiences and farm life. Stories from the book, *The Thompson Family: Untold Stories From The Past (1830-1960)* are featured in the exhibition.

Through Slavery, Civil War, Reconstruction Era & Beyond - The historical exhibition focuses on the contextualized story of Martha Kitchings Seawright Ellison, born enslaved on November 20th, 1849, in Aiken County, South Carolina. This presentation tells the contextualized story of her life, featuring local history of the antebellum period and Civil War in South Carolina during Martha's enslavement; a historical account of Martha's life during the Reconstruction Era and beyond. The exhibition includes replicas, artifacts, natural objects, visual images, and food samples that highlights Martha and her family life. Events from the chapter, Through Slavery, War, The Reconstruction Era & Beyond, in the book, *The Awakening: the Seawright-Ellison Family Saga, Vol.1*, is featured in the exhibition.



SC HUMANITIES **SPEAKERS BUREAU** Presentation Topics

1. Writing Your Family History: Getting Started

Writing your family history may seem like a daunting task, but when relatives are intrigued, you can develop ideas to make your family history project a reality. This presentation will focus on the five steps to help you start writing your family history, including examples and resources. Handouts will be given.

2. Martha Kitchings Seawright Ellison

Martha Kitchings Seawright Ellison was born enslaved on November 20, 1849, in Aiken County, South Carolina. This presentation tells the contextualized story of her life, featuring local history of the antebellum period and Civil War in South Carolina during Martha's enslavement; a historical account of Martha's life during the Reconstruction Era; the circumstances that involved Martha's marriages to two husbands; and post Reconstruction era through the Gilded Age (1875-1900) during Martha's life. Handouts will be given.

3. The Thompson Family: Untold Stories From The Past (1830-1960)

Through the stories of enslaved ancestors and notable relatives, *The Thompson Family: Untold Stories from The Past (1830-1960)*, chronicles the rich history of a prominent African American family from Salley, South Carolina features stories of individuals who were enslaved, a woman served as an enslaved cook on the Confederate side during the Civil War, and agricultural life. Handouts will be given.

4. Lavinia C. Thompson-The Personal Story of Slavery, The Civil War, and Family Life in South Carolina

Lavinia was born enslaved on June 3rd, 1844, in Aiken County, and this presentation tells her personal story of slavery and survival during the Civil War. Lavinia would follow her master into battle in the Civil War, serving the Confederate army as a cook. Six decades later, she would be among about 100 black South Carolinians who received small pensions for their involuntary service to the Confederate cause. Handouts will be given.

5. South Carolina African American Confederate Pensioners

This presentation explores the reasons why South Carolina used African American labor during the war; the diverse roles of African American labor during the war; SC approval of Confederate pensions for African Americans; notable features of the pension application; and notable South Carolina African American Confederate Pensioners. Handouts will be given.

Exclusive Presentations Available

Museums • Libraries • Colleges & Universities • Genealogical Societies • Historical Societies
Non-Profit Organizations • Public Agencies • Art Galleries

South Carolina Public Schools - 4th, 5th, 8th, and 11th Grade Social Studies Classes

South Carolina Private Schools - South Carolina and U.S History Classes

South Carolina Homeschools - South Carolina & U.S History Classes

To request a presentation, go to schumanities.org/speaker/walter-curry/



"Lavinia C. Thompson is being sold in a white dress but when she refuses she got beat and the dress turned blood red. This shows you how she was treated"

-ACPSD EIGHTH GRADER ON "MOMENT OF DEFIANCE"

Testimonial from Writing Your Family History- Getting Started

"The program sparked much dialogue about the many commonalities that people in rural small towns share. It is a topic that the Allendale County Historical Society would continue to address."

JAMES A. WHITE, JR., DIRECTOR,
ALLENDALE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
ALLENDALE, SOUTH CAROLINA.

Testimonial from Lavinia C. Thompson- The Personal Story of Slavery & The Civil War In South Carolina

"I felt that many new people learned brand new information about how enslaved people were forced to served in the Civil War for the CSA. I think most people felt the program was personal as it was intended. This is history our organization tells every day, and adding another voice and perspective was a great inclusion for our programs this year."

ASHLEY RUST, PARK RANGER
REDCLIFFE STATE HISTORIC SITE
BEECH ISLAND, SOUTH CAROLINA



"I believe the shackles were used to put slaves in pain or just keep them from running away or trying to defend themselves. They show how slaves were treated and help explain the suffering they went through."

-ACPSD EIGHTH GRADER



"This is demonstrating the slave experience of Isaac Quattlebaum. He was only five when his mother was taken away. I feel it is to show that the pain and loss the slaves faced was immense."

-ACPSD EIGHTH GRADER ON "SOLD AWAY"

Testimonial from South Carolina African American Confederate Pensioners

"The program was meaningful to Fountain Inn Museum because it was discussed African American history that has a connection to our town. We really appreciated the fact that Dr. Curry included a few examples directly related to Fountain Inn."

CAROL LEAKE, DIRECTOR
FOUNTAIN INN MUSEUM
FOUNTAIN INN, SOUTH CAROLINA