

Partnerships

AIKEN CENTER for the ARTS

Aiken Center for the Arts has an Author-In-Residence Program for 8th graders in the Aiken County Public School District, funded by a grant from the SC Arts Commission's Arts in Education initiative. Renaissance Publications & Educational Programs, LLC, uses storytelling and visual art to connect students with his family's history, highlighting important aspects of African American history in Aiken County and beyond. As part of the program, each participating middle school will receive a class set of one of Dr. Curry's books, along with teaching materials that align with the South Carolina 8th grade Social Studies Standards. The residency will also feature an exhibition of artifacts and visual art, allowing students to explore and reflect on the narratives discussed. You can learn more about the Aiken Center Author-in-Residence Program by visiting their website:

aikencentrforthearts.org/author-in-residence/

SCState 1890 RESEARCH & EXTENSION Innovate. Educate. Elevate.

Renaissance Publications & Educational Programs, LLC has established a partnership with my alma mater, South Carolina State University's 1890 Research & Extension Program. This collaboration aims to create enriching learning experiences for students and the community, bridging the gap between historical agricultural practices and contemporary methods. The partnership involved speaking engagements and various related initiatives. Learn more about S.C. State University's 1890 Research & Extension program by visiting:

scsu.edu/psa/1890_research_and_extension.php

COMMUNAL PEN

Renaissance Publications & Educational Programs, LLC has partnered with The Athenaeum Press at Coastal Carolina University to offer Communal Pen workshops. These sessions explore personal connections to local South Carolina history and culture. The Communal Pen initiative itself is a collaboration between The Athenaeum Press and the South Carolina Arts Commission, with funding support from the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA).

Learn more about the Communal Pen Workshop offered by The Athenaeum Press at Coastal Carolina University at:

theathenaeumpress.com/projects/communalpen/
and coastal.edu/news/ccusatheathenaeumpressstopartner-withscartscommissionededgefieldcountyworkshop/
(no hyphens)

Testimonial from Ancestral Reflections: The Thompson Family- "The students, the faculty, and staff who attended and who viewed the art exhibition made positive comments and gave positive feedback during the presentation. The Visual Arts program would love to plan some future collaborative events on campus with Dr. Curry." KIM LEDEE, PROFESSOR OF ART, VISUAL ARTS PROGRAM, SOUTH CAROLINA STATE UNIVERSITY

Testimonial from Ancestral Reflections: The Thompson Family- "The audience enjoyed Dr. Curry exhibition and program especially since it was centered on agricultural history. Lee County is a rural agricultural community and is home to the South Carolina State Cotton Museum." CINDY WELCH, LEE COUNTY ARTS COUNCIL



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



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

Renaissance Publications EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS, LLC



Contact & Booking Information

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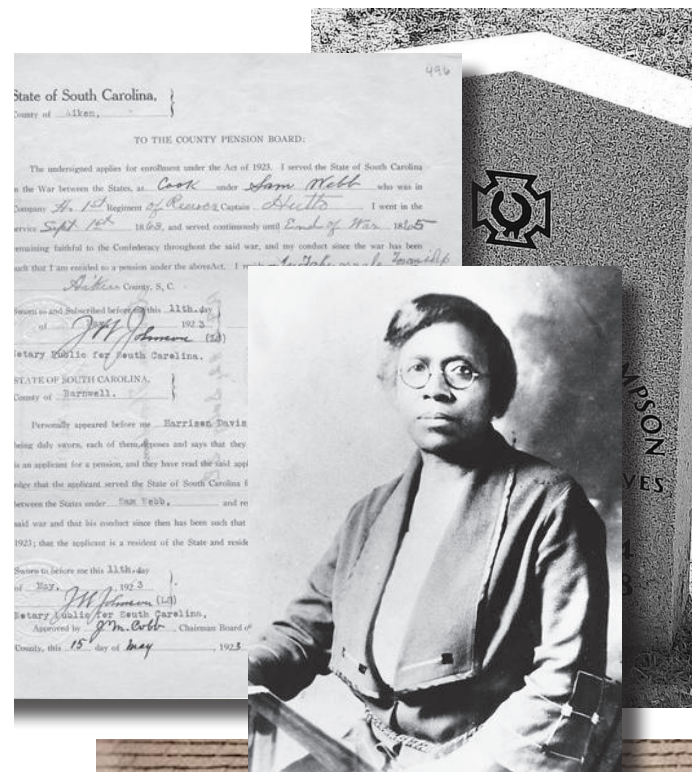
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Renaissance Publications

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS, LLC



*Uncovering history.
Inspiring legacies.*



Founder: Dr. Walter B. Curry, Jr.

Renaissance Publications & Educational Programs, LLC, provides engaging presentations, workshops, exhibitions on ancestral and local history in South Carolina, with a special focus on the Civil War, Reconstruction, and the Gilded Age.

These unique programs are available exclusively to:

Historical and Genealogical Societies	Bookstores and Art Centers
Schools and Colleges	Non-Profit Organizations
Business/Corporate Events	Government Agencies

Qualifying organizations can receive these presentations at no cost, thanks to the sponsorship of South Carolina Humanities. Every presentation program will feature books for sale that relate directly to the topics discussed. 20% of all book sales will be donated to support the host organization. Our featured presentation programs—including Dr. Matilda Evans: A Medical Pioneer, The Thompson Family: Untold Stories From The Past (1830-1960), Lavinia C. Thompson – The Personal Story of Slavery and Civil War in South Carolina, and South Carolina African American Confederate Pensioners—are enhanced with related artwork and commemorative items. These programs include relevant artwork and commemorative items. Attendees can purchase artwork and commemorative items with 20% of the proceeds benefiting supporting organizations.



Featured Presentations

Dr. Matilda Evans: South Carolina's Medical Pioneer - The remarkable life of Dr. Matilda Evans, a prominent historical figure who holds the distinction of being the first African American woman licensed to practice medicine in South Carolina.

Martha Kitchings Seawright Ellison - The life of an enslaved woman from Aiken County, covering her experiences through the Civil War, Reconstruction, and Gilded Age.

Lavinia C. Thompson - The Personal Story of Slavery and Civil War in South Carolina - The story of a woman born into slavery who served the Confederate army as a cook and later received a pension for her service.

The Thompson Family: Untold Stories From the Past (1830-1960) - A broader exploration of a prominent African American family from Salley, South Carolina, chronicling their history from 1830 to 1960.

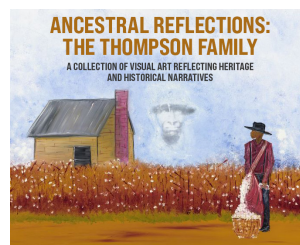
South Carolina African American Confederate Pensioners -

This presentation examines why and how South Carolina used African American labor during the Civil War and the process by which some received pensions.

Featured Exhibitions and Workshops

Ancestral Reflections: The Thompson Family Exhibition:

This exhibit comprises a series of eight paintings accompanied by informative panels that depict the lives of enslaved ancestors, including a participant in the Civil War, as well as various agricultural practices in rural South Carolina. Inspired by the award-winning book, "The Thompson Family: Untold Stories From The Past (1830-1960)," the exhibition highlights the family's rich heritage from Salley, South Carolina. It aims to connect family history with visual storytelling, spark community discussions about historical context, and demonstrate how art can bring family narratives to life. This exhibition features Dr. Walter B. Curry, founder of Renaissance Publications & Educational Programs, LLC, alongside artist Chakalah Crawford, founder of A.D.D. Art By Kalah. The exhibition was recognized with the Award of Merit from the Confederation of South Carolina Local Historical Societies.



en enslavers and traders in South Carolina. The exhibition is sponsored by South Carolina Historical Society and South Carolina Humanities.

Celebrating South Carolina's Agricultural Heritage: A Communal Pen Workshop: Agriculture and farming are the very soul of rural South Carolina, built by the sweat and harvest of its dedicated farmers. This fun-filled, free 2-hour writing workshop led by Dr. Curry, an author with deep family roots in the state's agriculture. Dr. Curry will use his own books, which detail his family's history, and his original paintings as inspirational fodder for your writing.

This workshop welcomes writers and storytellers of all experience levels—from ages five to ninety-five! Writing

supplies will be provided.

To view participant responses from previous workshops, visit: communalpen.com/category/in-the-field/

Write Your Family's Story: A Communal Pen Workshop:

Uncover and celebrate the rich, unique tapestry of your family history in this focused, two-hour communal writing session. Every family holds a wealth of stories—the challenges they overcame, the traditions they cherished, and the legacies they built. This workshop offers a supportive space to start documenting those memories. We'll guide you through simple, effective techniques for recalling, outlining, and drafting personal and ancestral narratives.

Whether you're interested in preserving a specific anecdote, charting a migration journey, or simply giving voice to a beloved grandparent, you'll leave with a solid start to your story.

You don't need to be an experienced writer; you just need a desire to record your family's history. Writing supplies will be provided. The exhibitions and workshops include items for sale: books and artwork, with 20% of sales proceeds going to supporting organizations.

Agricultural Heritage Workshop: The Agricultural Heritage Program in Rural South Carolina highlights the region's rich agricultural history through ancestry. The initiative, proposed by Dr. Walter B. Curry, Jr., combines interactive presentations with a visual historical exhibition. Presentations cover topics like the History of Cotton and Cane Syrup Production. They feature hands-on activities such as cotton plant labeling and a syrup taste test. The exhibition complements this with relics like cotton harvesting tools and four featured paintings depicting farm scenes and soil conservation.

Testimonials

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

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