North Carolina & the Fire of Freedom

Tuesday, August 15 | 9 am - 5 pm | Raleigh, NC

[The role of Black people] “in the Revolution can be best understood by realizing that their major loyalty was not to a place nor to a people, but to a principle.” ~Benjamin Quarles

9:00 – 9:30  Coffee & Registration  | NC Department of Natural & Cultural Resources, Room 208

9:30 – 9:50  Welcome & Framing the Day
Christie Norris | Carolina K-12

9:50 - 11:00  Slavery, Freedom & Black Resistance in the Revolutionary Era
Dr. Antwain Hunter | Assistant Professor of History, UNC-CH

Even as American Patriots fought for independence from British rule during the Revolutionary War, oppressive conditions remained in place for the thousands of enslaved and free African Americans living in this country. But Black North Carolinians took up their own fight for freedom in myriad ways: by joining the British and American armies; escaping; forming maroon communities in the Great Dismal Swamp; educating themselves & others; writing about the evils of slavery; and more. In this session, we will explore how Black people in the colonies made and answered their own parallel cries for freedom.

11:00 - 11:15  Break

11:15 - 12:15  Behind the Scenes: State Archives & State Library of North Carolina

The State Library of North Carolina and State Archives of North Carolina, both part of the NCDNCR, provide a treasure trove of educational resources, from historical significant archival materials to expansive online collections of primary sources. We’ll take a tour of these facilities to learn about the resources available for enhancing your classroom, check out a few primary sources from the Revolutionary Era, and maybe even get a rare peek in the Archives’ vault of historical treasures!

12:15 - 1:20  Lunch Panel: Making the Dream of Freedom Park a Reality
Dr. Reginald Hildebrand & Panelists

While enjoying lunch, we’ll learn about the newly constructed Freedom Park, an initiative 20 years in the making, which honors the African American experience and struggle for freedom in North Carolina. Featuring an award-winning design by internationally recognized architect Phil Freelon, Freedom Park exemplifies the quest for freedom throughout history, from Revolutionary times to present day.

Special thanks to the Paul Green Foundation for sponsoring lunch!
1:20 - 2:15  **Independent Exploration & Break**  
- During your break, feel free to visit Freedom Park on Lane Street, and/or the exhibits in the NC Museum of History (such as The Story of North Carolina) at 5 E Edenton St  
- Please make sure you arrive at the Longleaf Room (on the bottom floor of the NCMOH) no later than 2:15 pm.

2:15 - 2:30  **Welcome to the NC Museum of History | NCMOH, Longleaf Room**

2:30 - 3:30  **The Ongoing Fight for Freedom: Stories of NC Black Veterans**  
Dr. Sonny Kelley, Legacy Heirs Productions  
From the American Revolution to the Civil War, and in America’s conflicts overseas, African Americans have served and sacrificed in all branches of America’s armed forces. And yet even as Black soldiers fought for democracy and human rights overseas, they were denied their own rights back at home. In this dramatic presentation by Dr. Sonny Kelly, we will explore the rich history of Black veterans in North Carolina, using their stories to assess our nation’s commitment to the ideas of freedom and equality.

3:30 - 4:30  **Curriculum Connections, Pedagogy and Resources**

4:30 - 5:00  **Closing**

**Correlated Lesson Plans are Available at**  

*Funding for this workshop has been provided by the America250NC commemoration and the North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources. Please visit our website for more information on the commemoration at [www.america250.nc.gov](http://www.america250.nc.gov).*