



# CHAMPAIGN-URBANA DAYS

## AUGUST 8, 2009

### Douglas Center Annex Celebrates African American History: Past and Present

**1:00 – 2:30 P.M.**

#### **PICTORIAL HIGHLIGHTS OF DOUGLASS CENTER HISTORY**

In July of 1941, neighborhood residents formed "The Douglass Community Service Center Committee" and began a fundraising effort to address the needs of the black community. The first Center was dedicated in 1945. Come see the history we have been able to collect to date and share your own stories with us.



**2:30 – 4:00 P.M.**

#### **VOICES OF THE PAST**



##### **Frederick Douglass**

Douglass escaped from slavery and became one of the most influential figures of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. He became a powerful speaker in the anti-slavery circuit, an author, an advocate for women's rights, and held several government positions after the Civil War.

##### **Abraham Lincoln**

Douglass was an early critic of Lincoln, but he became an admirer of the President after the Emancipation Proclamation. As a result, Douglass became a recruiter for the 54<sup>th</sup> Regiment of Colored Troops of Massachusetts. After Lincoln's assassination, Douglass became a friend of Máry Todd Lincoln as well and she gave him one of the President's canes.



##### **Sgt. William H. Carney of the 54<sup>th</sup> Massachusetts Colored Infantry**

Sgt. Carney, born a slave, escaped to Massachusetts through the Underground Railroad. He served with the 54<sup>th</sup> Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry and took part in the July 18, 1863, assault on Fort Wagner in Charleston, South Carolina. Sgt. Carney was awarded the Medal of Honor.



##### **Harriet Tubman**

After escaping from slavery, Tubman made 13 missions to rescue over 70 slaves using the network of antislavery activists and safe houses known as the Underground Railroad.

On this day, Pam Welcome of Carol Stream, Illinois, will take on the role of Harriet Tubman. Through her first-person interpretation, Welcome will share hardships she had to endure and celebrate Harriet Tubman, alive and free!

**Presented by:**

The National Council of Negro Women

Champaign County Forest Preserve District's Early American Museum

