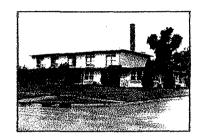


CHAMPAIGN-URBANA DAYS **AUGUST 8, 2009**

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 19th 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 54th 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 54th Massachusetts Colored Infantry

Sgt. Carney, born a slave, escaped to Massachusetts through the Underground Railroad. He served with the 54th 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!



The National Council of Negro Women Champaign County Forest Preserve District's Early American Museum



