

The Spirit of Freedom

A Newsletter of the African American Civil War Museum

September 2017

SUMMER AT THE AACWM

It's summertime and the Museum has been overflowing with visitors -- tour groups, family reunions, and individuals, young and old, from the United States and abroad. They've all come to learn about the role the members of the United States Colored Troops (USCT) played in ending slavery and keeping the United States united under one flag.

A GLIMPSE INSIDE!

AACWM calendar of events

Spotlight on a volunteer

A peek inside the collections

African American Civil War Museum
1925 Vermont Ave, NW
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www.afroamcivilwar.org
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Last March, the Museum received an Organizational Assessment through the American Alliance of Museum's Museum Assessment Program (MAP). MAP helps museums strengthen their operations and plan for the future. In her Final Report, the reviewer praised our permanent exhibit, *Glorious March to Liberty: Civil War to Civil Rights*, which leads the visitor through over 300 years of history from 1619 to the early days of the Civil Rights movement. She said, "It holds the visitor's attention, is attractive, easy to follow and understand, and talks about what could be a difficult subject without making the visitor uncomfortable. It is an empowering exhibition!" The Museum, she added, "...can and should be a museum of national significance."



AUDREY HINTON & FREED MEMBER SANDY WILSON

We invite you, your family and friends to visit the Museum to see how we bring to life the stories of the brave men who served in the USCT. We thank you for your support whether it is on-going financial support, a Museum membership, a one-time donation, or your time and talent. We hope you enjoy this new monthly newsletter, "The Spirit of Freedom," and we look forward to seeing you at the Museum.

Audrey Hinton, Board President
African American Civil War Memorial Freedom Foundation & Museum

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MUSEUM PASSPORT TO FREEDOM

BACK-TO-SCHOOL FESTIVAL

On August 19, 2017, the African American Civil War Museum hosted its second Museum Passport to Freedom Festival. We welcomed over 500 people and gave out school supplies to 300 students ranging from pre-K to 12th grade.

The Museum Passport to Freedom Program invites students to explore and engage in museums and features a museum passport that can be stamped at museums all over the country and redeemed at the African American Civil War Museum for a prize. To date the Museum has presented over 2,000 students with passports and increased access to the Museum's engaging programs with field-trip support to District of Columbia students. The program was made possible through a grant from the District of Columbia.



MUSEUM PASSPORT TO FREEDOM FESTIVAL GUESTS, VOLUNTEERS AND STAFF OF AACW MUSEUM

Visit www.afroamcivilwar.org for more information about events and how to RSVP. Check out pictures from past events and more.

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA... @AFROAMCIVILWAR



#USCTFACT
#SEEITBEINSPIRED

SEPTEMBER 2ND

1pm: USCT Descendants' Presentation

SEPTEMBER 20TH

6pm to 8pm: CBC Veterans' Appreciation event.

SEPTEMBER 27TH

6pm to 8pm: CBC Digging for Lost History: Honoring the African Americans Troops of WWII program

SEPTEMBER 30TH

11am to 5pm: "It's A Youth Thing!" Arts & Cultural Festival

OCTOBER 7TH

11am and 1pm: USCT Descendants' Presentation

OCTOBER 13TH

6:30pm to 8:30pm: Teachers' Night Out

OCTOBER 14TH

1pm to 3pm: Lincoln Group DC presentation: The United States Colored Troops in the Civil War

OCTOBER 27TH

7pm to 10pm: Birthday Celebration for Frank Smith, Director AACW Museum

NOVEMBER 11TH

11am: Veterans' Day Wreath-Laying Program

NOVEMBER 18TH

8am to 6pm: Gettysburg Remembrance Day Parade & Tour

DECEMBER 14TH

6:30pm to 8:30pm: AACW Museum's Civil War Holiday Open House

SPOTLIGHT ON A VOLUNTEER

ALANSKERRETT

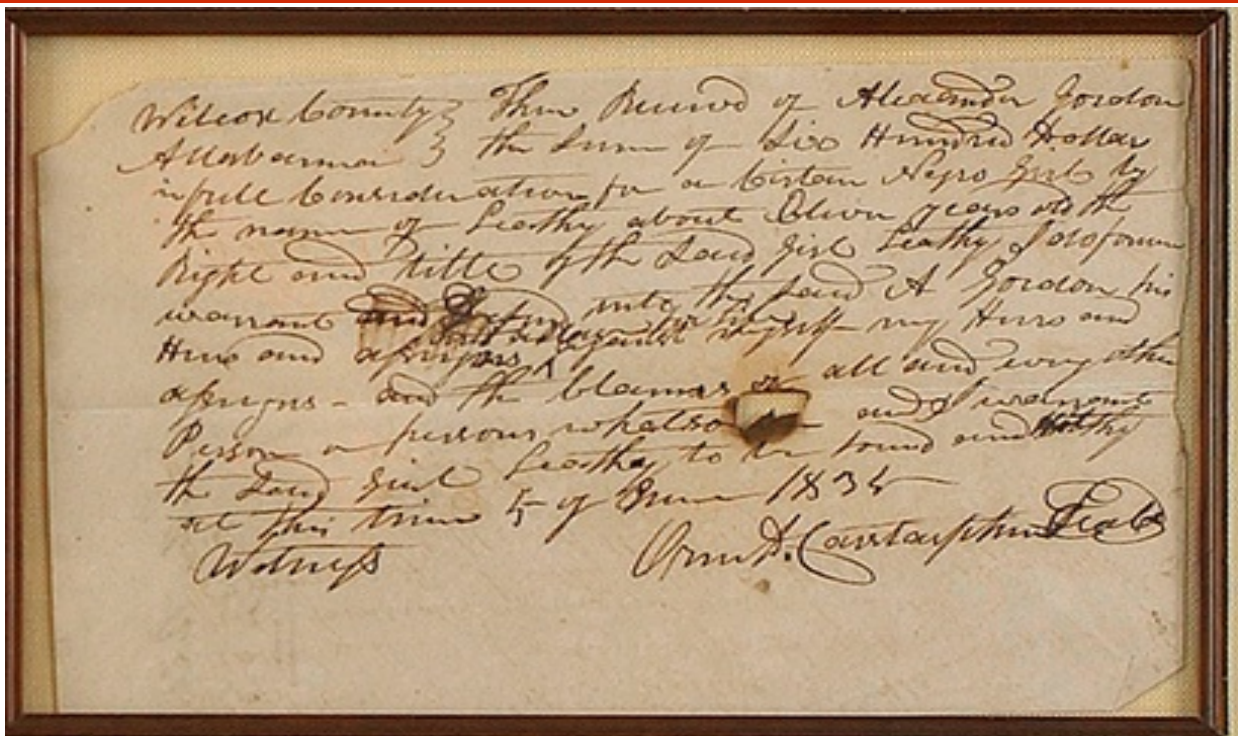
Like many museums and non-profit institutions, the African American Civil War Museum is no different in its need for volunteers. Alan Skerrett has been a volunteer with the Museum for six years and can be seen on many weekends providing tours to visitors from all over the world. Like some of our volunteers, Alan came to the Museum with an interest in the Civil War. When he is not volunteering, he maintains a blog called "Jubilo! The Emancipation Century," that features a wide range of information on African Americans in the 19th century. Alan contributes his knowledge to the African American Civil War Museum through his work as a docent and is truly an appreciated member of the AACWM team.



ALANSKERRETT

A PEEK INSIDE THE COLLECTIONS

In 1860 on the eve of the Civil War, four million persons were counted as slaves in the United States. The buying and selling of slaves can be tracked through a diverse array of documents from estate records to bills of sale. The Museum has on display a bill of sale for a little girl named Leathy who was sold in 1834 at the age of 11 for \$600. This document is one of the oldest documents in the Museum's collection and provides visitors a glimpse into a system that affected millions of enslaved individuals in the United States.



BILL OF SALE FOR LEATHY