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LancasterHistory

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All events are camera friendly, and principals will be available for interviews.

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Fall LancasterHistory Colloquia to kick off September 19 with lecture on the transformation of citizenship

Martha S. Jones, Ph.D. to tell the fascinating story of how African American activists transformed the terms of citizenship for all Americans.

Lancaster, PA (August 21, 2019) – On Thursday, September 19, 2019, Dr. Martha S. Jones will join LancasterHistory to tell the fascinating story of how African American activists radically transformed the terms of citizenship for all Americans.

From *Birthright Citizens*: "Before the Civil War, colonization schemes and black laws threatened to deport former slaves born in the United States. Martha S. Jones' recent book *Birthright Citizens* recovers the story of how African American activists remade national belonging through battles in legislatures, conventions, and courthouses. They faced formidable opposition, most notoriously from the US Supreme Court decision in Dred Scott. Still, no single case defined their status. Former slaves studied law, secured allies, and conducted themselves like citizens, establishing their status through local, everyday claims. All along they argued that birth guaranteed their rights. With fresh archival sources and an ambitious reframing of constitutional law-making before the Civil War, Jones will show how the Fourteenth Amendment constitutionalized the birthright principle, fulfilling the long-held aspirations of African Americans."

Martha S. Jones, Ph.D. is the Society of Black Alumni Presidential Professor and Professor of History at Johns Hopkins University, and Co-President of the Berkshire Conference of Women Historians. She is the author of *Birthright Citizens: A History of Race and Rights in Antebellum America* (2018) and *All Bound Up Together: The Woman Question in African American Public Culture* (2007), and an editor of *Toward an Intellectual History of Black Women* (2015.)

About The Event: The Regional History Colloquium is a series of lectures and presentations hosted by LancasterHistory throughout the year. Presenters at the Colloquium are historians and scholars who are in the midst of a work-in-progress or who have recently completed a publication. Topics focus on historical issues relating to southeastern Pennsylvania and its wider borders.

Tickets: The event *Birthright Citizens* will take place on Thursday, September 19, 2019 in Ryder Hall at LancasterHistory, 230 N. President Avenue in Lancaster. A speaker's reception and book signing by the author takes place at 4pm, followed by the main presentation at 4:30pm. The event is free and open to the public. Due to the popularity of the Regional History Colloquium series, **advance registration is required to guarantee a seat at the presentation.** Visit www.lancasterhistory.org/lectures to register online or call (717) 392-4633. Questions and accessibility requests may be directed to info@lancasterhistory.org or (717) 392-4633.

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