

Education for Freedom: the Penn Center Experiment 1862

Event Information

Penn Center is located on St. Helena Island, one of the most beautiful and historically distinct of the South Carolina Sea Islands, and sits at the heart of Gullah culture on the 50 acres of the historic campus of Penn School. Designated a National Historic Landmark in 1974, Penn Center is a non-profit organization that serves as a local, national, and international resource center.

Established in 1862 as Penn School, an experimental program to educate Sea Island slaves at the beginning of the



Civil War, it is the oldest and most persistent survivor of the Port Royal Experiment. The first principals were Northern missionaries, Laura M. Towne, a Unitarian from Pennsylvania, and her friend, Ellen Murray, a Quaker from Rhode Island, who spent the next 40 years of their lives living among and educating the Gullah people.

During the 1960s, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and members of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference chose Penn as a training site for retreats and strategic planning. The Peace Corps also used the site for training, lodging, planning and community service.

Today, Penn Center is an institution linked to the past and connected to the future. It fosters a vision of shared culture, preserved history and attainable world harmony.

Schedule

- 1:15 pm** Assemble in front of the York W. Baily Museum in the Cope Industrial Building, 16 Penn Center Circle West.
- 1:30-2:30 pm** Museum Tour
- 2:30-3:30 pm** Directors Presentation on the Penn School
- 3:30-4:30 pm** Guided Campus Tour



Please remember to dress comfortably, as we will be outside walking most of the time!

Directions

From I-95 take exit 33 onto Hwy 17 North to Hwy 21 South through the city of Beaufort. Proceed through Lady's Island to St. Helena. Continue to Martin Luther King Jr. Drive. Make a right. Travel 1/2 mile to the Historic Penn Center District.

Support Scholarships

This event is the fundraiser for the SCAA's scholarship program. Proceeds from the day will benefit the Darrick L. Hart Endowment Fund Award. Darrick Hart was a charter member of the SCAA and was very active in the association. He was employed as a Conservation Specialist for the University of South Carolina Conservation Laboratory in Columbia, SC. Hart was a dedicated professional and trained many graduate assistants and interns in Public History and Library Science. Darrick Hart passed away in 2002.

Awards up to \$500 are made available to current SCAA members through an application and review process to attend continuing educational training. Examples of acceptable uses of the Endowment are for meetings and workshops including, but not limited to, the annual meeting of the Society of American Archivists (SAA), SAA workshops, workshops and meetings of the Modern Archives Institute, SOLINET, etc.

For more information about this award, please visit the SCAA website at: <http://scaa.palmettohistory.org/>



South Carolina Archival Association



Annual Social
Friday, June 25, 2010
1:30 - 4:30 p.m.

Hosted by:

**Penn School National Historic
Landmark District
Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive
St. Helena Island, SC 29920**

<http://www.penncenter.com/>
info@penncenter.com

**South Carolina Department of Archives & History
8301 Parklane Road
Columbia, SC 29223**



**Registration Form— Deadline Is June 17. Send in your registration or sign up on-line at
<http://scaa.palmettohistory.org>**

Name: _____ Institution: _____

Address: _____ Telephone: _____

Registration Fees (lunch and refreshments included) _____ Email: _____

Adults \$15 Students \$10

Amount enclosed: \$ _____

Send completed form with check payable to South Carolina Archival Association to:

SCAA/ c/o Allison Thiessen
Richland County Public Library
1431 Assembly Street
Columbia, SC 29201