



Media Contact: Nancy Hawley
Tryon Palace Marketing & Communications
Phone: (252) 514-4937
Email: nhawley@tryonpalace.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

African American Lecture:

“NEW BERN AND THE ROLE OF FREEMEN”

Thursday, April 15

(NEW BERN, NC) ---Ann McColl, Attorney and Associate Professor of Educational Leadership at UNC-Charlotte will present a lecture entitled, “New Bern and the Role of Freeman” on Thursday, April 15 at 7:00 p.m. in the Tryon Palace visitor center auditorium.

In the midst of racism, poverty, and political turmoil, North Carolina created one of the best constitutional rights to education in the country. Courageous black freemen and freedmen and northern and native whites produced this Reconstruction-era constitution, but their roles and key events sometimes have been forgotten or intentionally erased from North Carolina’s history. These contributions are not only important for telling the true story: they help explain our current education requirements as the 1868 constitutional

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provisions have been carried forward to our current constitution. An important part of this story is the contributions of James Walker Hood, a key leader in New Bern in the 1860s. This presentation will bring attention to his role and the conditions in New Bern in the civil war and reconstruction-era period. ###

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The Department of Cultural Resources is a state agency dedicated to the promotion and protection of North Carolina's arts, history, and culture. For more information, visit www.ncculture.com

Tryon Palace Historic Sites & Gardens' mission is to engage present and future generations in the history of North Carolina from early settlement and development of statehood through the mid-twentieth century by collecting, interpreting and preserving objects, buildings, landscapes and events that enrich understanding of the making of our state and nation. The North Carolina History Education Center scheduled to open in July of 2010 complements and enhances this mission.

Tryon Palace Historic Sites & Gardens, located in New Bern, N.C., is part of the Office of Archives and History, an agency of the N.C. Department of Cultural Resources. The Department of Cultural Resources is a state agency dedicated to the promotion and protection of North Carolina's arts, history, and culture. For more information, visit www.ncculture.com.

Buildings currently open to the public include the reconstructed Palace, the John Wright Stanly House, the George W. Dixon House, and the Robert Hay House. Hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Saturday, and 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. on Sunday. Last tours begin at 4 p.m. The New Bern Academy Museum is closed until March 2010, but is open for group tours. Tickets and tour information is available at the Visitor Center located at the corner of George and Pollock streets.

The visitor center and the first floor of the Palace and gardens are accessible to visitors with disabilities. The North Carolina History Education Center is under construction and is scheduled to open in July 2010.

For directions and further information about special events, programs or group tours, phone (800) 767-1560 or (252) 514-4900 or visit our web site: www.tryonpalace.org.

