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“The Law Is Too Slow: Lynching in North Carolina, 1885-1906”

Freddie Parker, Ph.D., North Carolina Central University

[NEW BERN]---Following Reconstruction, whites in the South attempted to “reclaim” the land for themselves. Part of that “redemption” included a reign

of terror that involved the destruction of African American property and the murder of African American men.

Lynching was the most powerful symbol of white violence against black men. A mob of whites would drag a black man from his home or from a jail, tie him to a tree or post, and hang him. Afterwards they might desecrate the body, perhaps dismembering and/or burning it.

On **Thursday, January 21**, Dr. Parker will highlight the time from 1885 to 1906, when 43 people were lynched in North Carolina; 33 were black, while 10 were white. This number includes one female, lynched with three men between Pittsboro and Moncure,

North Carolina in September, 1885. Though anti-lynching legislation was passed in 1893, no one was arrested for participating in mob action until 1906.

This free lecture is at 7 p.m. in the Tryon Palace Visitor Center auditorium at the corner of George and Pollock streets. The public is encouraged to attend.

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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 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.

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Ask me about the North Carolina History Education Center opening in July 2010!

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