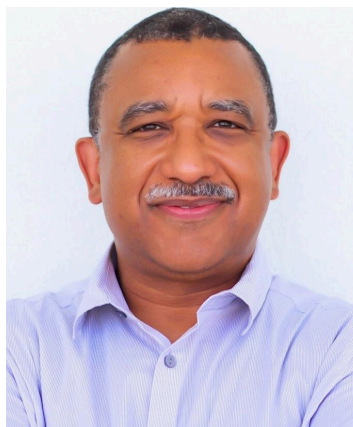


ISRE's 4th Annual Spring Symposium (Mar 20-21, 2026) Featured Speakers & Breakout Session Presenters



Robert Adams, Ph.D

Executive Director - Penn Center

Robert is an anthropologist by training who focuses on the intersection between race and culture. He has conducted research in Africa, the Caribbean, Latin America, and North America.

Dr. Adams will be presenting "Hastings Gantt: Black Philanthropist."



Michael Allen

Community Partner Specialist - Tastee Treats Enterprises

Michael Allen has been a community activist for most of his professional life. He has a deep-seeded interest in our nation's spiritual growth as it relates to the history and culture. Throughout his career, Michael Allen was involved in designing exhibits and presenting interpretive programs that involve local communities and history. These programs were designed to attract non-traditional audiences to National Park Service and other historic sites.

Michael Allen will be presenting "The Quest for Freedom and Citizenship in a New Landscape."



Elizabeth Laney

Research Associate - Institute for the Study of the Reconstruction Era

Elizabeth Laney, M.A., is a historian and genealogist with 20+ years experience working in state parks, historic sites and museums. She specializes in the history of the Reconstruction Era and the history of the State of South Carolina with a particular focus on African American

communities in the late 19th & early 20th centuries and SC's Black military legacy. She has worked for ISRE since 2022.

Elizabeth Laney will be leading a short workshop on US Colored Troop pension records during one of our midday breakout sessions. The workshop will be facilitated by USCB's Dr. Mollie Barnes.



Christopher Barr

Chief of Interpretation - Reconstruction Era National Historical Park

Chris is the Chief of Interpretation at Reconstruction Era National Historical Park, where he coordinates the day to day visitor services, programs, and staffing of the park sites across Beaufort County. He has been at Reconstruction Era National Historical Park since 2019.

Chris Barr will be presenting "The Freedman's Bank in the Beaufort and Beyond."



Grace Morris Cordial

Senior Librarian and Archivist, Beaufort District Collection - Beaufort County Library

Ms. Cordial has managed the local history unit of the Beaufort County Library system for more than 25 years.

Grace M. Cordial will provide an overview of BDC resources for local genealogy & historical research during a midday breakout session, facilitated by USCB's Dr. James Shinn.



Eric Ellis

Historian - National Park Service

Originally from Jacksonville, Florida, Eric enlisted in the US Navy after high school. After which he attended New Mexico State University, receiving his Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts in Public and US History. Eric has spent his last two years with the National Park Service studying Black landownership in Beaufort County.

Eric Ellis will be presenting "Mapping Reconstruction."



Belinda & Tony Jones

Co-Owners, Agritourism Managers - Morning Glory Homestead Farm, LLC.

Tony and Belinda Jones are Gullah descendants with deep family roots in the Gullah Geechee Heritage Corridor. Tony's ancestor Pompey Coaxum was enslaved on the McTureous Plantation, the same land where they now own and operate Morning Glory Homestead Farm, and his foresight led him to

purchase nearly 40 acres and serve on local committees that protected Black landowners. That land has remained in the family across generations, providing lasting security and legacy, and inspiring Tony and Belinda's continued commitment to stewardship, education, and community preservation.

Belinda & Tony Jones will be discussing their family history of landownership during one of our midday breakout sessions, facilitated by ACE Mellow Humanities Fellow Dr. Francena F.L. Turner.



Pernessa Seele

President - Lincolntonville Preservation & Historical Society

Pernessa Seele is the Founder/President of the Lincolntonville Preservation & Historical Society and Founder/CEO of The Balm In Gilead. Dr. Seele is well known for her extraordinary vision and ability to create national and global partnerships in support of service to people.

Pernessa Seele will be presenting "Lincolntonville, SC - 159 Years from Reconstruction to Today!"

Also Featuring:



Hermina Glass-Hill

Founder & Director - Susie King Taylor Women's Institute and Ecology Center

Glass-Hill is an award-winning public historian, museum curator, environmental activist, and ocean conservationist. She is the premier scholar on Susie King Taylor - a freedom seeker, Civil War laundress, teacher, nurse with the 1st SCVAD. She is the founder and executive director of the Susie King Taylor Women's Institute and Ecology Center and the Susie King Taylor Gullah Geechee Museum in

Liberty County, Georgia.

Hermina Glass-Hill is serving as the Master of Ceremonies for the 4th Annual Symposium.



Company I, 54th Massachusetts Regiment

Reenactment Regiment

Featuring Donald West, Terry James & Ernest Parks.