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Webinar: Slavery and Abolition in Glastonbury, 1639-1865

Glastonbury MLK Community Initiative (GMLKCI) in conjunction with the Historical Society of Glastonbury (HSG) presents a free webinar via Zoom on February 24 at 7 pm.

Titled: **Slavery & Abolition in Glastonbury, 1639-1865.**

The first enslaved people arrived in Connecticut in 1639. We don't know exactly when citizens of Glastonbury began to own slaves, but as occurred in other New England towns, few townspeople became slaveholders. Among those who did, most owned only one slave (or "servant").

The February 24th webinar will feature Diane Hoover and Julie Thompson from the Historical Society of Glastonbury who will share the findings of their research into slavery and abolition in Glastonbury, from colonial times through the Civil War. As part of a soon-to-open exhibit on this subject created by curator Lin Scarduzio at the Historical Society's Museum on the Green, Diane and Julie have spent countless hours researching the lives of the African American people who lived in the town from colonial times to the mid-19th century.

This story is far from complete, since the African American people who lived in Glastonbury from the early years into the 1800s left virtually no written record of their existence (as is true for women of any color, the poor, and most immigrants who settled in Glastonbury). Researchers must turn to the documents kept by those who wrote them: white men. Records of town meetings, vital statistics, wills, accounts of births, baptisms and deaths kept by the churches, burial records and headstone carvings, articles and advertisements from local newspapers, diaries of daily activities and books kept by doctors and storekeepers all serve as source material. Towns charged fees for the costs of clothes or room & board for poor residents from other towns and these receipts provide additional details. All require careful examination to extract information about slaves and freed blacks written in the ornate script of the time or printed with antique type fonts.

Julie and Diane will discuss Glastonbury's role in the abolition movement (including the role of Glastonbury's Smith sisters) and the repercussions from national events such as Nat Turner's Rebellion, *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, and Prudence Crandall's School for "Little Misses of Color" on Glastonbury residents.

Our guides will share true stories of African Americans who became soldiers in the Revolutionary and Civil Wars and of other notable African American residents of the town.

Glastonbury MLK Community Initiative is a nonprofit, all volunteer organization. GMLKCI's mission is to increase knowledge about, and understanding of, the philosophy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and to provide leadership and active engagement to build an inclusive

community. For more information about GMLKCI and to register for the online Conversation, visit www.glastonburymkci.org or register at <https://tinyurl.com/SlavAbolit>. Pre-registration is required.

The Historical Society of Glastonbury is a non-profit organization with the motto “Knowing our past, guides our future.” Its mission is to promote community activities on Glastonbury’s heritage through publications, exhibits, and programs, and to maintain and preserve historical properties and materials for education and research. HSG is located on the Museum on the Green on the corner of Main and Hubbard Streets. Visit hsgct.org.

Diane Hoover is the Director of Education for the Glastonbury Historical Society and coordinates the education programs and tours. She received her Master’s Degree in history at SCSU and is a retired history teacher who taught history in Glastonbury schools for 41 years.

Julie Thompson is the vice-president of the Historical Society of Glastonbury and a co-chair of the Education Committee at the Historical Society. Julie received her Bachelor of Science in Education from Miami University and a J.D. from Northeastern University School of Law. She has been a docent (museum guide) with the Historical Society for twelve years and leads tours at many of the Society’s annual and special events.

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