African Americans in the Nineteenth Century West Symposium Schedule
May 20 – 23, 2016

All events will be held in the Pere Marquette Room, DuBourg Hall, Saint Louis University, unless otherwise noted.

Friday, May 20, 2016

3:30 p.m. Welcome: Chris Duncan, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, Saint Louis University
Introductions: Silvana R. Siddali, History Department, Saint Louis University
Invocation: Steve Schoenig, S.J., Saint Louis University History Department.

4:00 to 5:40 p.m. Roundtable discussion: St. Louis Research Resources in African American History.
Chair: John Hoover, Mercantile Library, St. Louis.

Presentations by local research collections, including the Mercantile Library at the University of St. Louis-Missouri; the Jesuit Archives, Central United States, Washington University Department of Special Collections; National Park Service, St. Louis, and the State Historical Society of Missouri Manuscripts Collection.

6:00 – 7:00 p.m. Keynote address, Quintard Taylor, Jr., University of Washington (Open to community)

7:00 p.m. Reception (Open to community)

Saturday, May 21, 2016

8:15 a.m. Introduction: David Brodnax, Sr., Trinity Christian College

Session 1 The International West
8:30 - 10:00 Panel Chair: Jonathan Smith, Special Assistant to the President for Diversity and Community Engagement, Saint Louis University

Transnational Frontiers of Freedom: An 1823 Black Emigration from the Illinois Prairie to the Republic of Haiti, Nathan Jeremie-Brink, Loyola University Chicago
African Americans and Empire on the Pacific Coast in the 1850s and 1860s, Stacey Smith, Oregon State University

The Black Pacific: The Global Containment of Afro-Orientalism, Reynaldo Anderson, Harris-Stowe State University

Coffee break 10:00 – 10:30
Session 2  Western Political Activism
10:30 - 12:00  Panel Chair: Priscilla Dowden-White, University of Missouri-St. Louis

Education and the Struggle for African-American Equality on the Antebellum Old Northwest Frontier, Anna-Lisa Grace Cox, Harvard University
Race, Violence, and Civil Rights in Western State Constitutional Conventions, 1835-1865, Silvana R. Siddali, Saint Louis University
Redefining Status: African Americans’ Property Rights in Early California, Dana Elizabeth Weiner, Wilfrid Laurier University

LUNCH
12:00 to 1:30

1:30 p.m.  Introduction: Dana Elizabeth Weiner, Wilfrid Laurier University

Session 3  New Ways of Building Western Community
1:30 - 3:00  Panel Chair: Stefan Bradley, Director, African American Studies Program, Saint Louis University

Making Community: African American Women in Nineteenth Century Los Angeles, Marne Campbell, Loyola Marymount University
Brooklyn, Illinois and the Building of Black Towns in Historical Context, Sundiata Cha-Jua, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
“As They Were Lonely”: Black Isolation in Rural Iowa, 1850-1920, David Brodnax, Sr., Trinity Christian College

Coffee break  3:00 – 3:30

Session 4  Slavery, War, and Reconstruction in the West
3:30 - 5:00  Panel Chair: Katrina Thompson, Associate Professor, African-American Studies and History Department, Saint Louis University

Slavery and Reconstruction in Indian Territory, Fay Yarbrough, Rice University
“The First Morning of Their Freedom”: The Challenges of African-American Refugees in Civil War Era Missouri, Diane-Mutti Burke, Loyola University Chicago
Black Political Power in an Age of Disfranchisement: Ohio, a Case Study, 1860-1888, Nikki Taylor, Texas State University

5:30  Benediction: Reverend Dr. Anthony Witherspoon, Washington Metropolitan AME Zion Church, St. Louis

6:30  Evening Address: Lynne Jackson, Dred Scott Heritage Foundation
Dinner for conference presenters and St. Louis City Teachers
Dinner location TBA.