



# LEGACIES *of* LYNCHING

AN INAUGURAL GATHERING

*Hosted by the Center for the Study of the American South  
and Southern Futures on behalf of the  
North Carolina Community Remembrance Coalitions*

**JOIN US AS WE  
HONOR THE  
MEMORIES OF  
THOSE LOST TO  
LYNCHING, FOSTER  
COLLABORATION,  
AND BUILD A  
STATEWIDE NETWORK  
COMMITTED  
TO TRUTH.**

**SATURDAY, MARCH 1, 2025 | 8:00 AM-5:00 PM**

**FRIDAY CONFERENCE CENTER**

**100 FRIDAY CENTER DRIVE CHAPEL HILL, NC 27599**

# REGISTRATION & BREAKFAST

*Breakfast and coffee provided by the Friday Center*

**Time:** 8:00–8:45 AM

**Location:** South Entrance & Atrium Center

# WELCOME

**Time:** 9:00–9:30 AM

**Location:** Grumman Auditorium

**Vocalist:** **Mary D. Williams**, *Performing Historian*

**Speakers:** **Dr. Blair LM Kelley**, *Joel R. Williamson Distinguished Professor of Southern Studies, Director of the Center for the Study of the American South, Co-Director of Southern Futures at UNC-Chapel Hill*; **Hallie Brew**, **Peyton Jones**, and **Twumasi Duah-Mensah**, *Student Research Assistants*; **Dr. Darin Waters**, *Deputy Secretary for the Office of Archives & History at NC Department of Natural and Cultural Resources*; and **Dr. Rebecca Godwin**, *North Carolina Humanities Trustee*

# KEYNOTE: BY HANDS NOW KNOWN

**Time:** 9:30–10:30 AM

**Location:** Grumman Auditorium

**Introduction of Keynote Speaker:** **Dr. Rhonda D. Jones**, *UNC-Greensboro Community Digital Archivist, Steering Committee Member of the Guilford County Community Remembrance Project (GCCRP)*

**Keynote Speaker:** **Judge Margaret A. Burnham**, *Northeastern University Distinguished Professor of Law, Director of Reparations and Restorative Justice Initiatives, Director, Civil Rights and Restorative Justice Project; Faculty Co-Director, Center for Law, Equity and Race (CLEAR)*

❁ **NOTE:** *The Willow Lounge is available all day as a safe space to reflect and decompress. Therapists Victor Jones and Mary Lloyd will be on hand to provide support.*



**“IN ORDER TO  
SEE WHERE WE  
ARE GOING, WE  
MUST NOT ONLY  
REMEMBER WHERE  
WE HAVE BEEN,  
BUT WE MUST  
UNDERSTAND  
WHERE WE  
HAVE BEEN.”**

**—ELLA BAKER**

# DESCENDANT DIALOGUE

**Time:** 10:45–11:45 AM

**Location:** Grumman Auditorium

**Spoken Word Selection:** Nick Courmon,

“See Yourself in Your History”

**Facilitators:** **Danita Mason-Hogans**, *Award-Winning Civil Rights Historian and North Carolina Descendant*; **Hannah Scruggs**, *Public Historian, Genealogist, and Descendant*; **Evan Lewis**, *Founding Executive Director of the Legacy Coalition and Descendant*; and **James Andrews**, *Vietnam Veteran and North Carolina Descendant*

*Honoring the lived experiences of descendants and their family legacies shifts the conversation and awareness of racial terror lynching. This session will empower participants to center descendant perspectives.*

# LUNCH

*Lunch provided by the Friday Center*

**Time:** 12:00–1:00 PM

**Location:** Trillium Dining Room

*Time for conversations, networking, and meeting new friends*

# COMMUNITY REMEMBRANCE LEADERS AND SCHOLARS IN CONVERSATION

**Time:** 1:15–2:15 PM

**Location:** Grumman Auditorium

**Songwriter & Vocalist:** **Lois Deloatch**, “Tribute to the Ancestors”

**Community Remembrance Coalition Leaders:** **Mary Nettles** (Chatham), **Bettie Murchison** (Wake), and **The Honorable Elisa Chinn-Gary** (Charlotte-Mecklenburg)

**Scholars:** **Dr. Kidada E. Williams**, *Professor of African American History, US History and historical research methods at Wayne State University*; **Dr. Geoff K. Ward**, *Professor of African and African American Studies at Washington University, Director of the WashU & Slavery Project*; and **Dr. Jelani M. Favors**, *Henry E. Frye Distinguished Professor of History, Director of the Center of Excellence for Social Justice at North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University*

**Facilitator:** **Dr. Blair LM Kelley**

*How do we build bridges between scholars and local leaders doing community remembrance work? This conversation will explore models for shared knowledge between community experts and historical researchers.*

## WORKSHOP: COALITION BUILDING USING HISTORICAL AND GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH

**Time:** 2:30–3:30 PM

**Location:** Grumman Auditorium

**Facilitators:** **Dr. Glenn Hinson**, *Associate Professor of American Studies and Anthropology, Director of the Descendants Project at UNC-Chapel Hill*; **Dr. Blair LM Kelley**, *Joel R. Williamson Distinguished Professor of Southern Studies, Director of the Center for the Study of the American South, Co-Director of Southern Futures at UNC-Chapel Hill*; and **Tim Pinnick**, *Lead Researcher for the New Hanover County Community Remembrance Project and Creator of the Wilmington African American Community Remembrance Project*

*Build skills necessary for conducting historical and genealogical research while exploring strategies for connecting local histories with collective, community-based action.*



**“PEOPLE SAY WE  
CAN’T CHANGE  
THE PAST. BUT WE  
CAN AND MUST  
CHANGE THE  
REPRESENTATION  
AND THE MEANING  
OF THE PAST  
IN THE PRESENT  
AND FUTURE.”**

**— DR. GEOFF K. WARD**



**"MY WORK AS  
A HISTORIAN  
HAS ALWAYS  
BEGUN WITH THE  
STORIES OF MY  
ANCESTORS."**

**—DR. BLAIR LM KELLEY**



# RESTORATIVE JUSTICE: REPARATION, TRANSFORMATION, AND RACIAL HEALING

**Time:** 3:45-4:45 PM

**Location:** Grumman Auditorium

**Ninth Poet Laureate of North Carolina: Jaki Shelton Green**

“i wanted to ask the trees”

“When Black Men Die” (commemoration of Wilmington 1898)

“When Black Men Die #2” (commemoration of Plymouth Massacre)

**Facilitators:** **Dr. Kimberly Cook**, *Professor of Sociology and Criminology at UNC-Wilmington*; **James E. Williams Jr., Esq.**, *Co-founder and Former Co-Chair of the Orange County Community Remembrance Coalition, Chair of Booker T. Spicely Committee*

*What does justice look like for descendants and communities reckoning with racial terror lynching? We will invite participants to share their ideas for truth-telling, acknowledgment, repair, and moving forward locally and statewide.*

## SURVEY AND REFLECTION

**Time:** 4:45-5:00 PM

**Location:** Grumman Auditorium

*Please take a moment to complete our post-event survey. Your feedback is important. Thank you for sharing your time and reflections with us!*

*The Center for the Study of the American South is proud to host this inaugural gathering. This program is supported in part by North Carolina Humanities, the state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities, [www.nchumanities.org](http://www.nchumanities.org). Additional support at UNC-Chapel Hill comes from the Center for the Study of the American South, the Office of the Dean of the College of Arts & Sciences, and the Office of the Provost. Further support comes from Duke University and the Kenan Institute for Ethics, the Office of the Vice Provost for Interdisciplinary Studies, and the Office of the Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education.*

*A special thanks to additional sponsors, including the Hayti Heritage Center, and UNC-Chapel Hill sponsors: Department of American Studies, School of Law, Sonja Haynes Stone Center for Research in Black Culture and History, Institute for the Arts and Humanities, Department of History, and Ackerman Center for Excellence in Sustainability. Your support is greatly appreciated!*

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RESEARCH IN BLACK CULTURE AND HISTORY**





**“IMPRECISION  
IS AN ACT OF  
ERASURE.”**

**—DR. KIDADA E. WILLIAMS**

## STEERING COMMITTEE

Dr. Kimberly Cook  
Dr. Scott R. Gartlan  
Dr. Glenn Hinson  
Dr. Rhonda D. Jones  
Dr. Blair LM Kelley  
James E. Williams Jr., Esq.

## CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF THE AMERICAN SOUTH

**Director:** Blair LM Kelley  
**Administrative Manager:** Terri Lorant  
**Administrative Assistant to the Director:** Melissa Peng  
**Senior Leadership Advisor:** Marcie Cohen Ferris  
**Operations Manager, Southern Futures:** Jailyn Neville  
**Student Research Assistants:** Hallie Brew (Southern Futures Fellow), Peyton Jones, Twumasi Duah-Mensah  
**Student Ambassador:** Nikolas Lewis (Southern Futures Fellow)  
**Adams Fellow:** Rebecca Bernstein  
**Design Coordinator:** Hudd Byard

## NORTH CAROLINA COMMUNITY REMEMBRANCE COALITIONS

Alamance, Buncombe, Chatham, Craven, Guilford, Mecklenburg, New Hanover, Orange, Rowan, Wake, Warren

# PARTICIPANT BIOS

**JAMES ANDREWS** is a Vietnam Veteran and Purple Heart recipient. He grew up on the Andrews family farm in Warren County, North Carolina. The descendant of a 1947 victim of racial violence, Andrews served for twenty years as President of the North Carolina AFL-CIO, during which he also proudly served for two terms on the National AFL-CIO Executive Council, being the voice of working people across the country.

**HALLIE BREW** is a third-year Honors Carolina student and Southern Futures Fellow majoring in American Studies and English at UNC-Chapel Hill. Since high school, she has been passionate about researching North Carolina's "Hidden History" and the descendants of lynching victims, stemming from her work with the Equal Justice Initiative's Community Remembrance Project.

**JUDGE MARGARET A. BURNHAM** is a renowned legal scholar, civil rights advocate, former judge, and founder of Northeastern University School of Law's Civil Rights and Restorative Justice Project ([www.crrj.org](http://www.crrj.org)). Through CRRJ, Burnham has led teams of law students in investigating acts of racial violence during the Jim Crow era, including

hundreds of unsolved acts of violence and murders of Black people among other historical failures of the criminal justice system. Winner of the Hillman Prize for Book Journalism and the *Los Angeles Times* Book Prize for History, Burnham's book, *By Hands Now Known: Jim Crow's Legal Executioners*, draws on the extensive case database collected by CRRJ to offer a paradigm-shifting investigation of Jim Crow-era violence, the legal apparatus that sustained it, and its enduring legacy, while tracing the unremitting line from slavery to the legal structures of this period—and through today. In her early career, Burnham was a lawyer on the NAACP's defense team for Angela Davis, and in 1977, she became the first African American woman to serve in the Massachusetts judiciary. She was appointed by President Biden to serve on the Civil Rights Cold Case Records Review Board, a national initiative charged with reviewing the records of murders and other acts of racially motivated violence that occurred between 1940 and 1979. Burnham is a University Distinguished Professor of Law at Northeastern University, where she has been on faculty since 2002.

**THE HONORABLE ELISA CHINN-GARY** is an attorney, social worker, court manager, judicial official, and racial equity organizer. Elected to the North Carolina Judicial Office of Mecklenburg County Clerk of Superior Court and Judge of Probate in 2014, she is the co-founder of Race Matters for Juvenile Justice, a court-led initiative designed to dismantle racism in the justice system. Her work focuses on the impact of race and racism on institutions, communities, and individuals. She is frequently requested as a speaker and commentator on issues related to structural racism, implicit bias, procedural justice, and developing organizational cultures of racial consciousness.

**DR. KIMBERLY COOK** is a Professor of Sociology and Criminology at UNC-Wilmington. Dr. Cook has authored numerous research articles and her most recent books include *Shattered Justice: Crime Victims' Experiences with Wrongful Convictions and Exonerations* (Rutgers University Press, 2022) and *Survivor Criminology: A Radical Act of Hope* (Rowman & Littlefield, 2022). She has facilitated cases in Juvenile Court, public schools, and local nonprofit organizations. She has offered training for restorative justice practices and is co-facilitator of the

Wilmington chapter of Coming to the Table, a racial transformation program, and is a member of the New Hanover County Community Remembrance Project. Dr. Cook is especially interested in using restorative practices to promote racial and gender justice and has been trained by national leaders in restorative and racial justice work.

**NICK COURMON** is an international poet, spoken word artist, recording artist, teaching artist, and motivational speaker from Greensboro, North Carolina. Courmon has been featured in the *Los Angeles Times*, NBC's *Today Show*, *The Drew Barrymore Show*, *VICE News*, *Button Poetry*, *Narratively*, and Spokane public radio. He has also used his art to collaborate with the NAACP, Beats by Dre, Gushers, Microsoft, *USA Today*, The King Center, the Museum of Contemporary Art: North Miami, *Where Is My Land*, *Missourians Against the Death Penalty*, *Democracy NC*, *NC Black Alliance*, and the *Wounded Warrior Project*. More info at: [www.ndcpoetry.com](http://www.ndcpoetry.com).

**LOIS DELOATCH**'s music career spans three decades as a vocalist, songwriter, recording artist, and educator. Noted for her distinct contralto voice and compelling com-

positions, Deloatch has performed in concert throughout the United States and internationally. She has released six recordings, including her 2024 album, *Love Always*, and *Hymn to Freedom: Homage to Oscar Peterson*, selected as one of the Top 10 CDs of 2008 by *JazzTimes* magazine. Deloatch has shared the stage with jazz icons, including pianist Ellis Marsalis, drummer Ed Thigpen, trumpeter Arturo Sandoval, and saxophonist Branford Marsalis. More info at: [www.loisdeloatch.com](http://www.loisdeloatch.com).

**TWUMASI DUAH-MENSAH** is a senior studying Medical Anthropology and Media and Journalism at UNC-Chapel Hill. Hailing from Wake Forest, North Carolina, Duah-Mensah's passion is in uplifting stories from underrepresented groups.

**DR. JELANI M. FAVORS** is Henry E. Frye Distinguished Professor of History and founding director of the Center of Excellence for Social Justice at North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University. He has been awarded major research fellowships, including a 2013 Humanities Writ Large Fellowship at Duke University and an inaugural Mellon HBCU Fellowship at the John Hope Franklin Humanities Institute at Duke in 2009. Dr. Favors is the author of *Shelter in a Time of*

*Storm: How Black Colleges Fostered Generations of Leadership and Activism* (UNC Press, 2020), which received the 2020 Stone Book Award, presented annually by the Museum of African American History in Boston, and the 2020 Lillian Smith Book Award, given yearly by the Southern Regional Council and the University of Georgia Libraries.

**DR. SCOTT R. GARTLAN, EDD**, is Executive Director of the Charlotte Teachers Institute. A former high school teacher and counselor, he has supported the growth and development of more than 900 PK-12th grade teachers through high-quality professional development seminars and programs. His work focuses on effective teacher professional development, teacher efficacy, and program evaluation, and he has presented research at numerous academic conferences and public forums, as well as published a book chapter. He earned a doctorate from UNC-Charlotte, a master's degree from Teachers College, Columbia University, and a bachelor's and master's degree from Washington College in Chestertown, Maryland. Dr. Gartlan is a founding member of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Remembrance Project, dating back to 2018. He planned, organized, and carried out the 2022 Racial Justice Essay





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AMERICA’S  
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**—JUDGE MARGARET A. BURNHAM**

contest for Charlotte–Mecklenburg high school students, awarding more than \$6,000 in scholarships to winning students.

**DR. REBECCA GODWIN** is Professor Emerita of English at Barton College, where she held the Elizabeth H. Jordan Chair of Southern Literature. Godwin currently serves on the Board of Directors of the North Caroliniana Society, the Friends of Wilson County Public Library, and North Carolina Humanities. She is past chair of the North Carolina Writers Conference and past president of the North Carolina Literary and Historical Association. Godwin has published more than forty essays and book reviews in critical anthologies or scholarly journals. Her most recent book is *Community Across Time: Robert Morgan’s Words for Home* (West Virginia University Press, 2023).

**JAKI SHELTON GREEN**, ninth Poet Laureate of North Carolina, is the first African American and third woman to be appointed as the North Carolina Poet Laureate. First appointed in 2018, she was reappointed in 2021 for a second term by Governor Roy Cooper. Green was the 2021 Frank B. Hanes Writer in Residence at UNC–Chapel Hill, a 2019 Academy of American Poets

Laureate Fellow, 2014 NC Literary Hall of Fame Inductee, 2009 NC Piedmont Laureate appointment, and 2003 recipient of the North Carolina Award for Literature. Green recently retired from teaching Documentary Poetry at Duke University’s Center for Documentary Studies and currently serves as the poetry editor for *WALTER* magazine and the Poet Laureate-in-Residence at the North Carolina Museum of Art.

**DR. GLENN HINSON** is Associate Professor of American Studies and Anthropology at UNC–Chapel Hill, currently directs UNC’s Descendants Project, a collaborative, community-engaged initiative dedicated to telling the full stories of past victims of racial violence and to working with both descendants and communities to honor their lives. Directly inspired by the Equal Justice Initiative, the Descendants Project trains undergraduate students to conduct archival and genealogical research that identifies victims’ family stories and then traces those families to the present day.

**PEYTON JONES** is a North Carolina native, a senior, and UNC–Chapel Hill double legacy. As a Communications, Screenwriting, and Creative Writing student, she has dedicated herself to impactful storytelling of all

kinds, from poetry to media production to forgotten tales from history.

**DR. RHONDA D. JONES** is an international scholar who specializes in cultural heritage, memory, and digital informatics. Passionate about reducing barriers to information for underrepresented communities, her research centers on trauma-informed archives and the role of collective memory regarding lynching, racial violence, resource mobilization, and restorative justice during the eras of Jim Crow segregation and the Civil Rights Movement.

**VICTOR LARUE JONES** is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW), Licensed Clinical Addictions Specialist (LCAS), Senior Certified Resilience Educator, Certified Neuro-Somatic Intelligence Coach, and registered Circle of Security Parenting (COSP) Facilitator. Jones has practiced psychotherapy in Rocky Mount for more than twenty-five years. He emphasizes the inclusion of Trauma Responsive Care and Cultural Humility in all human spaces.

**DR. BLAIR LM KELLEY** is the Joel R. Williamson Distinguished Professor of Southern Studies at UNC-Chapel Hill, Director of the Center for the Study of the American South, and

Co-Director of Southern Futures. Kelley is the author of *Right to Ride: Streetcar Boycotts and African American Citizenship* (UNC Press, 2010), which was awarded the 2010 Letitia Woods Brown Memorial Book Prize from the Association of Black Women Historians, and *Black Folk: The Roots of the Black Working Class* (Liveright, 2023), which was selected as one of *Smithsonian's* Best Books of 2023, received the 2024 Philip Taft Labor History Prize, the 2024 Brooklyn Library Book Award, and the 2024 Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights Book Award, and was a finalist for the *Los Angeles Times* Book Award in History. Kelley was also awarded a 2020 Creative Nonfiction Grant by the Whiting Foundation and the 2022–23 John Hope Franklin/NEH Fellowship by the National Humanities Center.

**EVAN LEWIS** is a visionary and strategic leader committed to educational equality, social activism, and empowering marginalized communities. He is the Executive Director of Community Education Partnerships, a California-based nonprofit organization that provides educational support to unhoused children in Oakland, San Francisco, and across the Bay Area. In 2022, Lewis became the inaugural Community

Activist Fellow at Northeastern University Law School's Civil Rights and Restorative Justice Center. He has since partnered with the Law School to launch The Legacy Coalition, a national nonprofit organization designed to advocate on behalf of descendants of racial violence in the American South during the Jim Crow era. As the Founding Executive Director of The Legacy Coalition, Lewis has planned, executed, and moderated national conferences featuring renowned thought leaders in the field, including celebrated writer Ta-Nehisi Coates and educator and activist Dr. Angela Davis.

**MARY LLOYD** is a mother of three daughters, a sister, a friend to persons living in recovery, and one who lives and practices Recovery daily. Lloyd believes that in living life one will experience challenges and that surviving and thriving traumatic experiences is done in community. She wants to enlarge that community by supporting others to walk through the waters of life and know they are not alone.

**DANITA MASON-HOGANS, MA**, is an award-winning civil rights historian, educator, speaker, writer, and activist. Mason-Hogans is a native of Chapel Hill, North Carolina, from seven generations

on both sides of her family. She is the daughter of Dave Mason of the Chapel Hill Nine, who began the first sit-in of Chapel Hill's civil rights movement, igniting decades of protests against segregation. In Mason-Hogans' acclaimed TEDx Talk, "Why the Way We Tell Stories and Document History Is a Social Justice Issue," she describes the Critical Oral History methodology she utilizes in her podcast *RE/Collecting Chapel Hill*. Working with community partners, school systems, universities, activists, and historians, she collaborates and consults to document local and national history from the "inside out" and from the "bottom up."

**BETTIE EDWARDS MURCHISON** is a member of Raleigh Organizing Against Racism (ROAR) and co-chair of the Wake County Community Remembrance Coalition. She journeys with community members to the EJI Legacy Museum and National Memorial for Peace and Justice in Montgomery, Alabama. She is also a member of the NCCRC Planning Committee.

**MARY NETTLES** is the first and only African American member to serve as Chair of the Chatham County Democratic Party Executive Committee. She was one of

the inaugural Chatham County Community “6 over 60 Class” and was presented the Governor’s Award for Volunteer Service by Governor Roy Cooper. She has been honored by the Chatham County Board of Commissioners, is the President of Chatham Community NAACP Branch #5377, and is the first President of the Community Remembrance Coalition-Chatham (CRC-C). Through many organizations, Nettles embraces opportunities to continue shining a light on Chatham County’s racial disparities, including the history of the six people lynched in the county, and seeks opportunities to work toward reconciliation among all residents of Chatham County.

**TIM PINNICK** is a writer and national speaker with more than thirty-five years of research experience. In 2019, Pinnick was coordinator and facilitator of a landmark workshop at the Institute of Genealogy and Historical Research titled, “Building an African American Research Toolbox.” Pinnick is a frequent speaker at major conferences, including the 2019 Association for the Study of African American Life and History meeting in Charleston, South Carolina.

**HANNAH SCRUGGS** is a public historian and PhD student whose work sits at the intersection of slavery, the environment, and family and community histories. Her public-facing work has focused on descendant communities as stakeholders at historic sites and on preserving family and community histories. Scruggs currently lives near Boston, Massachusetts.

**DR. GEOFF K. WARD** is Professor of African and African American Studies and Director of the *WashU & Slavery Project* at Washington University in St. Louis. His current research examines histories and legacies of racialized violence and their reparative implications, including the role of anti-racist “memory work” in transitional justice processes.

**DR. DARIN WATERS** is Deputy Secretary for the North Carolina Office of Archives and History. He oversees the operations of the divisions of State History and Maritime Museums, State Historic Sites and Properties, Archives and Records, Historical Resources (including the State Historic Preservation Office, the Office of Historical Research, and the Office of State Archaeology) and commissions (including Roanoke Island Festival Park and

Tryon Palace), and Education and Outreach. He is also the secretary of the North Carolina Historical Commission and the State Historic Preservation Officer.

**JAMES E. WILLIAMS JR., ESQ.**

served as Chief Public Defender for Orange and Chatham Counties from 1990 to 2017. He is a founder, and serves as chair, of the North Carolina Commission on Racial and Ethnic Disparities. He is also a founder of the Orange County Community Remembrance Coalition. He currently serves as counsel for the Center for Death Penalty Litigation and serves on several boards and commissions. In January 2020, Governor Roy Cooper appointed Williams to the Martin Luther King Jr. Commission. Williams has received numerous awards, including the NC Advocates for Justice Thurgood Marshall Award; the MLK University/Community Planning Inc. MLK Jr. Citizenship Award; the NC ACLU Champion of Justice Award; the North Carolina Bar Association James McNeil Smith, Jr. Award; the NC Advocates for Justice Annie Brown Kennedy Award; and the Orange County Human Relations Commission/Office of Equity & Inclusion Pauli Murray Award.

**DR. KIDADA E. WILLIAMS** is a writer and historian researching African American survivors of racist violence. She is the author of *I Saw Death Coming* (longlisted for the 2023 National Book Award), an elected fellow of the Society of American Historians, and a professor of history at Wayne State University in Detroit.

**MARY D. WILLIAMS** is a performer, historian, public educator, and adjunct professor at both Duke University's Center for Documentary Studies and Wake Technical Community College. Williams graduated with honors from UNC-Chapel Hill, where she earned both a BA and MA degree in American Studies and folklore. Her unique talent for storytelling through music has earned her recognition far beyond the Triangle. Williams is currently working on her first book, which examines the life of iconic American gospel singer Mahalia Jackson.



**“BLACK CITIZENS  
IN THE 1890S AND  
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