



Stockton Community to Celebrate Port Republic African American Civil War Veterans

An Evening of Staged Readings, Songs and Live Music

For Immediate Release

Friday, March 01, 2013

Contact: Susan Allen
Office of Media Relations
Galloway Township, NJ 08205
Susan.Allen@stockton.edu
(609) 652-4790

Galloway Township, NJ- The next event in The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey's semester-long celebration of African American soldiers in the Civil War is "We Remember," an evening of staged readings of letters by and about Union soldiers during the Civil War, period songs and musical performances.

"We Remember," will take place on the College's main Galloway campus on **Thursday, March 7, 2013**, from 7:30 to 9 p.m. in the Campus Center Theater and is free and open to the public.

The event will give special emphasis to the Boling family from Port Republic. Henry Boling, an African American, moved to Port Republic in the late 1850s. Three of his children, Charles, Josiah and Eli, enlisted in the Union Army, fought in the war and returned home. Members of the Boling family are buried in a cemetery in Port Republic at the intersection of Pomona and Moss Mill Roads. The stories of the Boling family will be shared through readings of letters and documents from the Boling family.

David Pinto, who manages the College archives and special collections and was the lead event organizer, said "It seems fitting that we use the Sesquicentennial of the Civil War to acknowledge, consider and honor the contributions made by African American soldiers, and all Union soldiers, to preserve the nation and achieve freedom for all. 'We Remember' will bring to life their words, thoughts and music."

Pinto and Peter Hagen, director of the Center for Academic Advising and Planning, are both folk musicians who will perform live music during the event.

African Americans were not legally permitted to enlist in the Union Army until Abraham Lincoln's 1863 Emancipation Proclamation, an order to all segments of the U.S. executive branch proclaiming all those enslaved in Confederate territory to be forever free. To celebrate the Emancipation's Proclamation's 150th anniversary, Stockton students, faculty and staff have joined forces with the community to host a series of events. **-more-**

We Remember/ page 2

“Galloway’s Graveyard: Unearthing the History of the Boling Settlement,” an exhibit of artifacts from the Boling family on display in the Stockton College Richard E. Bjork Library, also details the story of the Boling family. The exhibit was curated by two graduate students in the Master of Arts in American Studies program, Kevin Konrad and Jesse Kraft, and overseen by Thomas Kinsella, professor of British literature. To create the exhibit, Konrad and Kraft did documentary research and went through hundreds of pages of archived materials such as deeds and requests from Civil War widows for pensions.

#