



## **SECOND ANNUAL MARTIN R. DELANY SYMPOSIUM**

### ***Martin R. Delany: Family, Country, and the World***

#### **Call for Papers**

**August 18-19, 2023, Pittsburgh, PA**

**Submission Deadline: May 19, 2023**

The African American Program at the Senator John Heinz History Center invites proposals for presentation at its Second Annual Martin R. Delany Symposium to be held August 18-19, 2023, in Pittsburgh, Pa. The two-day event will take place in the historic Heinz History Center with tours of its award-winning exhibitions and rooftop views of the city skyline and rivers.

During the inaugural Symposium in 2022, attendees learned about Delany *Before, During and Beyond the Civil War*. Keynote speakers Richard J.M. Blackett and Tunde Adeleke gave talks that framed panel discussions on Delany's life and work in abolitionism, emigration, literature, Civil War, politics, and public history. Born in Charles Town, Va. To a free mother, Pati, and enslaved father, Samuel, Delany would live under the yoke of racial oppression. His youth and young adult years would be spent in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania where his education in abolitionism, enterprise, medicine, and journalism would set him apart from other abolitionists, especially in Pittsburgh. Delany would become a significant publisher of the first African American newspaper west of the Allegheny Mountains, *The Mystery*. In the 1850s Delany would enroll in Harvard Medical School and assume the leadership of the National Emigration Convention a decade before President Lincoln would commission him a Major of the 104<sup>th</sup> USCI in 1865 making him the highest ranking African American field officer in the US Army.

The Symposium welcomes paper proposals or panels that address Delany's life, family, and country. Delany was a leader both in his community, state, nation, and internationally. This Symposium wants to address more deeply into Delany's family life as a point of departure to a broader discussion of Delany as a national and international figure.

The structure of the academic program will have two sessions. Each session will be framed by a keynote address. The morning session keynote by Robert S. Levine, University of Maryland scholar, will discuss Delany's rise as an abolitionist leader in Pittsburgh and his quest to pursue greater professional mobility in medicine, journalism, education, and enterprise. It will also discuss Delany as a political figure in the era of Frederick Douglass.

The afternoon session keynote will be Tera W. Hunter, Princeton University historian who will frame a discussion by panelists that will explore deeper into Delany as a family man and political figure that helped shape Black freedom. Martin and his wife Catherine had seven children, and each was named

after an historic figure. What is the family legacy of Delany and how it intersects with events in African American experience years after his death?

Listed below are suggested topics for session proposals

- The Family of Martin R. Delany                      Emigration
- Abolitionism in Pittsburgh                              Fraternal Order – Free Masonry
- The Mystery and the Abolitionist Press              Women during the era of Delany
- Delany in Africa and England                          Delany in West Africa
- Reconstruction Politics                                  Quest for Medical Practice
- Delany's literary accomplishments                  Abolitionism in Pennsylvania

Proposals should be submitted in electronic form, one thousand words or less, double spaced, either Calibri or Times New Roman font. A title should be clearly listed at the top of the page accompanied by name and contact information. Please inform the proposal if your presentation needs audio/video technology (PowerPoint, film, video, sound, etc.). If the proposal is accepted, PowerPoint and completed papers should be submitted by July 17, 2023. All PowerPoints must be limited to up to ten slides and friendly to Microsoft technology. All presentations will be in person at the Heinz History Center - no exceptions allowed. Please submit proposals to the information below.

Samuel W Black  
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Senator John Heinz History Center  
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