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THE CANADA INSTITUTE of the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars

In cooperation with  
National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

*Presents*

**The Black Canadian Experience:  
From the Underground Railroad to Black Canadian Studies Today**  
*A Black Canadian Studies Events Series*

In conjunction with  
200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Abolition of the Transatlantic Slave Trade  
60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Canadian Citizenship Act  
25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms

**March 1 thru 2, 2007**

**Thursday, March 1, 2007**

**4:00 pm to 5:30 pm**     **Book Launch and Discussion on the Underground Railroad**     x  
Presenter: Karolyn Smardz Frost, Ontario Historical Society  
E. Ethelbert Miller, Howard University  
Harvey Amani Whitfield, University of Vermont

**Friday, March 2, 2007**

**9:00 am to 12:00 pm**     **Seminar on Black Canadian Studies**     x  
Panel Members: John Whittington Franklin, Moderator  
C.R. Gibbs, Historian of the African Diaspora  
Karolyn Smardz Frost, Ontario Historical Society  
Harvey Amani Whitfield, University of Vermont

**2:00 pm to 5:00 pm**     **Black Canadian History and African Diaspora Films**     x  
Introduced by: C.R. Gibbs, Historian/Writer  
Canadian Actor/Film Producer Anthony Sherwood

Panel Member Bios and Presentation Abstracts     x

Historical Themes     x

Supportive Organizations     x

Film Capsules     x

**PART ONE: Book Launch and Discussion**

**Thursday, March 1, 2007, from 4:00 pm to 5:30 pm**

Moynihan Board Room, 6th Floor

***I've Got A Home in Glory Land: A Lost Tale of the Underground Railroad***

by Karolyn Smardz Frost, Ph.D, Executive Director, Ontario Historical Society;  
Archeologist and Historian

**Comments by:**

E. Ethelbert Miller, Ph.D., Director, African American Resource Center, Howard University

Harvey Amani Whitfield, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of History, University of Vermont

**Co-sponsored** with the Wilson Center's Division of United States Studies;

The African American Studies Department at the University of Maryland;

The African American Resource Center at Howard University.

**PART TWO: Seminar**

**Friday, March 2, 2007, from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm**

Fifth Floor Conference Room

**From the Underground Railroad to Black Canadian Studies Today**

Black Canadian Studies is the exploration of the range of theories, experiences, contributions, perceptions, feelings, convictions, triumphs, and obstacles awaiting to be overcome of identified Black people of African descent resident in Canada. Black Canadian Studies revolves around the agency of Black people as the subject of investigation. Their stories, their interpretations, their pride, their independence, their self determination, their challenges, their triumphs, their shortfalls and sense of freedom and justice are at the forefront of investigation. --- Professor David Divine, James R. Johnston Chair in Black Canadian Studies, Dalhousie University [Halifax, Nova Scotia].

9:00 am **WELCOME**

David Biette, Director, Canada Institute

Peter Hanes, National Parks Service (Overview of the Black Canadian Studies Events Series)

9:10-10:15 am **PANEL ONE**

**Moderator**

John Whittington Franklin, Program Manager, National Museum of African American History and Culture; Co-editor with John Hope Franklin, *My Life and an Era: The Autobiography of Buck Colbert Franklin* [Louisiana State University Press].

**The Abolition of Slavery in the Western Hemisphere**

C.R. Gibbs, Historian of the African Diaspora; Author, *Black Inventors: from Africa to America; Black Explorers: from 2300 B.C. to Present; Black, Copper, & Bright: The District of Columbia's Black Civil Regiment* [All books published by Three Dimensional Publishing].

**A City in the Promised Land: African Canadians and African Americans  
in Antebellum Toronto**

Karolyn Smardz Frost, Ph.D., Executive Director, Ontario Historical Society; Archeologist and Historian; Author, *I've Got A Home in Glory Land: A Lost Tale of the Underground Railroad* [Farrar, Straus and Giroux]; Co-author, *The Underground Railroad: Next Stop Toronto!* [Natural Heritage Books].

Question and Answer Period  
10:15 – 10:30 am Break

10:30-11:45 am **PANEL TWO**

**Special Presentation  
From Actor to Activist**

Anthony Sherwood, Actor, Director, Filmmaker  
The African-Canadian performer and artist will discuss his journey from performer to activist and his upcoming documentary commemorating the 100th anniversary of the oldest black church in the Province of Quebec.

**From Slavery to Slavery: African-Americans in Maritime Canada  
after the Revolutionary War?**

Harvey Amani Whitfield, Ph.D, Assistant Professor of History, University of Vermont

Question and Answer Period  
12:00 pm Program Concludes

**PART THREE: Films  
Friday, March 2, 2007, from 2:00 pm to 5:00 pm  
Wilson Theater (Ground Floor)**

2:00 pm **INTRODUCTIONS**

**David Biette**, Director, Canada Institute  
**Peter Hanes**, National Parks Service (moderator)

2:15 pm Preview of *Black, Copper, & Bright: The District of Columbia's Black Civil War Regiment* (13 minutes) [Three Dimensional Publishing Productions]  
**C.R. Gibbs**, Historian/Writer, Moderator and Discussant

2:30 pm *Honour Before Glory* (Canada's Only All Black Battalion during World War I) (66 minutes) [Anthony Sherwood Productions]  
**Anthony Sherwood**, Filmmaker, Moderator and Discussant

3:45 pm *Freedom's Land: Canada and the Underground Railroad* (52 minutes)  
[Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC) TV]  
**Anthony Sherwood**, Filmmaker, Moderator and Discussant

4:45 pm Concluding Remarks

## Seminar Panel Member Bios and Presentation Abstracts

**John Franklin, Moderator;** Program Manager, Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture [Insert up to half page bio here]

**C.R. Gibbs**, Historian of the African Diaspora. Email: [carroll.gibbs@dot.gov](mailto:carroll.gibbs@dot.gov) Mr. Gibbs is an author, freelance writer, lecturer, and exhibitor of historical information and artifacts. His many accomplishments include video or television scripts on Black History for the Washington, DC Public Schools Educational Media Center, WETA-TV, and WHUR FM Radio. He served as assistant technical advisor to the Frances Thompson Company on a film entitled *American Years*, and as a consultant to the DC Public School System, Georgetown University, the Smithsonian Institution, and Maryland Public Television. He researched, wrote, and narrated, *Sketches in Color*, a 13-part companion series to the PBS series *The Civil War* for the Howard University TV station. A DC Humanities Council Scholar, Mr. Gibbs has also appeared on the History Channel and C-SPAN. Mr. Gibbs led 26 people on a transcontinental crossing of Africa, from South to North. The nearly 5,000-mile journey included study stops in South Africa, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Kenya, and Egypt. Mr. Gibbs is also an honorary paramount chief of the Vai people of Liberia, West Africa. He is the author of various books entitled: *The Afro-American Inventor*; *Black Explorers: 2300 B.C. to the Present*; *Black Inventors: From Africa to America*; *Friends of Frederick Douglass* (a children's book); *Black, Copper, & Bright: The District of Columbia's Black Civil War Regiment*. Based on the last listed book, he is now working on a documentary film.

**Presentation: The Abolition of Slavery in the Western Hemisphere.** Mr. Gibbs will briefly summarize the following themes:

- Abolition was a historic global movement that must be seen in the context of African peoples' ongoing contention to protect their humanity, preserve their cultures, and procure justice and equality;
- The end of enslavement in the hemisphere neither began or ended with the passage of the 13<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the U.S Constitution. Therefore, a knowledge of the assault on slavery in both larger and lesser known regions is essentially to a fuller understanding of the vastness of the war for freedom;
- There is a compelling need to connect African, Caribbean, and Latin American historical experiences with what happened in the U.S. and Canada;
- To explicate the consequences for Africa of the abolition of slavery outside of Africa.

**Karolyn Smardz Frost, Ph.D.** is the Executive Director of the Ontario Historical Society. She holds a BA in archaeology, a master's in Classical Studies and a PhD in Canadian History (Race & Slavery). In 2004-5, she held a postdoctoral fellowship at York University, where she taught courses in Toronto historical research. Karolyn has been awarded research fellowships by Multiculturalism Canada, the Ontario Heritage Foundation, the Virginia Historical Society, the Anderson Center at Red Wing, Minnesota, the Bentley Historical Library of the University of Michigan, the Kentucky African American Heritage Commission and the Filson Historical Society of Louisville, Kentucky.

She is internationally recognized for her work in multiculturalism and anti-racist education through public archaeology and public history. In 1985, Karolyn founded the Toronto Board of Education's Archaeological Resource Centre where, over a 9 year period, more than 100,000 schoolchildren and members of the public helped uncover and preserve their own city's past. The 1985 pilot project was the excavation of the home of Thornton and Lucie Blackburn, fugitive slaves who have been designated Persons of National Historic Significance in Canada and of state historic significance in Kentucky based on her research. Karolyn has been a guest lecturer at the University of Newcastle-on-Tyne, U.K. and between 1995 and 1998 was Manager of Public Programming for the Institute for Minnesota Archaeology.

A former Vice-Chair of the Toronto Historical Board, Karolyn was until recently Canada's representative to the World Archaeological Congress. She has been Recording Secretary of the Ontario Historical Society; and was a founding member of the education committees of both the Society for American Archaeology and the Society for Historical Archaeology. The author of numerous articles, Karolyn co-edited the first textbook on educational archaeology, *The Archaeology Education Handbook: Sharing the Past With Kids* (2000). With historians Adrienne Shadd and Afua Cooper, she wrote *The Underground Railroad: Next Stop, Toronto!* (2002), and has conducted research for exhibits for Parks Canada and the Ontario Heritage Trust, as well as the documentary, *Freedom's Land* for the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation.

Karolyn's new book, *I've Got a Home in Glory Land: a Lost Tale of the Underground Railroad* is the first entirely original fugitive slave biography since the 19<sup>th</sup> century. It is published by Farrar, Straus and Giroux of New York and Thomas Allen Books of Toronto (February 2007). She is currently engaged in two new projects. The first is entitled *Voices from a Promised Land? African Americans in Antebellum Canada*. A second is titled *Dear Mistress: Letters from a Kentucky Runaway*. She is also guest editor of the Spring 2007 edition of *Ontario History* in honour of the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the abolition of the Atlantic Slave Trade.

At present, Karolyn Smardz Frost and her environmentalist husband, Norm Frost, divide their time between Toronto, their home at Collingwood, and a cottage on Nova Scotia's lovely South Shore.

**Presentation: "A City in the Promised Land: African Canadians and African Americans in Antebellum Toronto"** Before the Civil War, Canada was the main destination of passengers on the fabled "Underground Railroad." While earlier scholars have discussed the fugitive slave colonies and rural settlements of Southwestern Ontario, relatively little attention has been paid to the strong and vibrant Black community that grew up in the province's largest city. Nearly 2 percent of Toronto's population was made up of African American immigrants by the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century. These newcomers engaged in a variety of activities to combat not only the ongoing fact of American slavery, but also North America-wide racial attitudes that limited opportunities and blighted expectations for fugitive slaves and free Black people alike. This paper explores the hybrid African American/African American community that grew up in antebellum Toronto.

**Harvey Amani Whitfield, Ph.D.**, is an Assistant Professor of History at the University of Vermont. He received his doctorate from Dalhousie University in Nova Scotia, Canada. He recently published "Blacks on the Border: The Black Refugees in British North America, 1815-1860" (University Press of New England). He is currently working on a book entitled "From Slavery to Slavery: African Americans in Maritime Canada during the Age of Loyalty, 1783-1815".

**Presentation: "From Slavery to Slavery: African-Americans in Maritime Canada after the Revolutionary War?"** We know a great deal about African Americans who went to various parts of Canada and obtained freedom. But, what about black people who were slaves in the United States and remained slaves after migrating to various parts of Canada with their masters? This short paper attempts to address these African Americans' experience. Indeed, to have a broader understanding transnational black migration to Canada historians must look beyond the paradigm of from slavery in America to freedom in Canada and consider the experience of those who remained slaves.

**Anthony Sherwood** is an award-winning filmmaker and one of Canada's most successful black film actors, whose career spans over thirty years performing on stage, television and motion pictures. This versatile performer has worked with such actors as Henry Fonda, Sidney Poitier, Martin Sheen, Burt Reynolds, Leslie Neilson, Brian Dennehy, Lou Gossett Jr., Kathleen Turner, Jamie Lee Curtis, Robert Mitchum, Christopher Reeves and recently appeared as Jessica Alba's father in the film "Honey".

Anthony Sherwood was born in Halifax, Nova Scotia and is a fifth generation Canadian. His ancestors came up the Underground Railroad from Virginia.

Sherwood has a portfolio of Canadian and international educational film titles. His company produced the feature documentary entitled, *Honour Before Glory*, the story of Canada's one and only all Black battalion, the No. 2 Construction Battalion, which included Blacks from Canada, the United States and the Caribbean. The film won Second Prize at the **2002 Hollywood Black Film Festival in Los Angeles and a 2002 Gemini Award (Canada's most prestigious television award)**. Mr. Sherwood created and produced the documentary film, *Music - A Family Tradition* for the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC), which won a **Gemini Award in 1997 and was nominated for an International Emmy Award**. He also produced and directed documentaries entitled, *Nowhere To Run* which was filmed on three different continents and looks at the global crisis of landmines, and *Mozambique - A Land of Hope* which looks at the HIV/AIDS epidemic in Africa and was broadcast on the *Signature Series* on OMNI 1 Television.

Sherwood's next work, *A Hundred Years of Faith*, is a documentary film to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Union United Church, the oldest black church in the Province of Quebec. Founded by blacks who emigrated from the United States, the church has been a spiritual haven and cultural emporium for several generations of Black Canadians, including distinguished musicians Oscar Peterson and Oliver Jones. The film will have its world premiere on April 15, 2007, in Montreal, Quebec, Canada. [email: [asherc468@rogers.com](mailto:asherc468@rogers.com) phone: 905-495-9188].

## Historical Themes for the Black Canadian Events Series

### The 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemoration of the Abolition of the Transatlantic Slave Trade

#### *The Abolition of the Transatlantic Slave Trade*

The British Abolition of Slave Trade Act received royal assent and took effect on March 25, 1807, to outlaw such trade throughout the British Empire. The Act prohibited British ships from being involved in the slave trade and marked the start of the end of the transatlantic traffic of human beings. A year later, the Royal Navy's West African Squadron was established to suppress transatlantic slave trading. Over the next 60 years, the squadron's anti-slavery operations along the West Coast of Africa and into East Africa and the Caribbean enforced the ban. William Wilberforce, the British Parliamentary leader of the anti-slavery movement, with key allies Thomas Clarkson, Olaudah Equiano and others, led the successful effort to convince the Parliament to pass the Act. The measure set in motion an international crusade that ultimately resulted in the outlawing of slavery worldwide.

#### *The Abolition of Slavery in the British Empire*

The British Slavery Abolition Act received royal assent on August 29, 1833 and on took effect on August 1, 1834, to abolish slavery throughout the British Empire. At that time, the Empire spanned several continents and encompassed parts of the Caribbean, Africa, Canada, India, China, Australia, and South America as far as the tip of Argentina. Also at this time, there are about 800,000 enslaved persons in the British West Indies. This historic action fueled abolition movements worldwide that led to slavery's end in Europe, the Caribbean colonies, the United States, and South America. Abolitionist Frederick Douglass stressed the importance of the event: "The downfall of slavery under British power meant the downfall of slavery, ultimately under American power, and the downfall of Negro slavery everywhere." Continued Douglass, "Outside the British Empire no other nation was in a position to feel it so much as we [the United States]. The stimulus it gave to the American anti-slavery movement was immediate, pronounced, and powerful." Annual observances marking August 1<sup>st</sup> still occur in Trinidad, Jamaica, and Guyana. The Caribbean Historical Society leads present-day efforts to make August 1st, International Emancipation Day worldwide.

The August 1, 1834 action was a linking force to the Underground Railroad (UGRR) movement, the historic resistance to enslavement through escape and flight in the Western Hemisphere, a period that the National Park Service and Parks Canada seek to preserve, commemorate and interpret to the public.

UN General Assembly to Mark Bicentennial of Abolition of Transatlantic Slave Trade on March 26, 2007; Various Member Nations Plan Related Educational Events throughout 2007

The United Nations (UN) General Assembly recently adopted a resolution to mark the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the abolition of the transatlantic slave trade on March 26, 2007, and in concert with the world body's resolution, a number of UN member nations will commemorate this watershed event in African Diaspora history in numerous educational events, including conferences, throughout the year.

March 25, 2007 will mark 200 years - to the day - that a Parliamentary Bill was passed to abolish the slave trade in the then British Empire. 1807 was the beginning of the long road to the eventual abolition of slavery itself within the empire via the Act of 1833. Even then, enslaved persons did not gain their final freedom until 1838. The abolition of the slave trade in the British Empire was the precursor to the abolition of slavery in the British Empire (August 1, 1834). The latter action provided the impetus for the formal outlawing of slavery worldwide.

The University of Hull, through its Wilberforce Institute for the Study of Slavery and Emancipation, will specifically explore these watershed events in world history with an international interdisciplinary conference titled "Slavery: Unfinished Business" to be held May 16 thru 19, 2007 in Hull, U.K. [see <http://www.hull.ac.uk/wise/2007.html>]. This conference is one of the major events of the Bicentenary of the Abolition of the Slave Trade in the British Empire, to be held March thru May 2007 in the U.K.

[see United Kingdom DirectGov at: [http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/slavery/DG\\_065859](http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/slavery/DG_065859)].

These programmes will raise awareness of the slave trade, its effects, and the existence of servitude today.

The Bicentenary Commemoration has support from the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Slave Route Project. [See [http://portal.unesco.org/culture/en/ev.php-URL\\_ID=25659&URL\\_DO=DO\\_TOPIC&URL\\_SECTION=201.html](http://portal.unesco.org/culture/en/ev.php-URL_ID=25659&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html) ]

**International Conference: Black Diasporic Experiences of Societal Engagement:  
The Politics of Inclusion – Engagement on whose terms?"**  
*An International Interdisciplinary Black Leadership and Black Studies Conference*

In conjunction with  
200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Abolition of the Transatlantic Slave Trade  
60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Canadian Citizenship Act  
25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms

**April 11 thru 12, 2007**  
**Library and Archives Auditorium**  
**Ottawa, Canada**

The James R. Johnston Chair in Black Canadian Studies of Dalhousie University is organizing an international interdisciplinary Black Leadership and Black Studies conference for April 11 thru 12, 2007 in Ottawa, Canada titled "Black Diasporic Experiences of Societal Engagement: The Politics of Inclusion – Engagement on whose terms?" The event will involve leaders and scholars from Canada, the U.S.A., U.K. and France, and will be held in conjunction with the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the abolition of the transatlantic slave trade. For more information on Black Canadian Studies and the conference, visit <http://jamesrjohnstonchair.dal.ca> and contact the conference planner, Professor David Divine [email: [David.Divine@dal.ca](mailto:David.Divine@dal.ca) phone: (902) 494-3007.



## The Canadian Citizenship Act

The Canadian Citizenship Act, which was enacted on 27 June 1946 and came into force on 1 January 1947, provided for the conferring of a common Canadian citizenship on all Canadians, whether or not they had been born in Canada. Canadian citizenship, however, was deemed a privilege to be granted only to those considered qualified. Among the changes introduced by the new Act were the following:

- All Canadian citizens would have automatic right of entry to Canada.
- As a rule, immigrants (including those from the Commonwealth) would not qualify for full citizenship until they had been resident in Canada for five years and had taken out citizenship papers. However, immigrants who were already British subjects would not lose their existing rights, including the right to vote after they had resided in Canada for only one year. Immigrants who had served in the Canadian armed forces during the First or the Second World War would qualify for naturalization after only one year.
- Married women would be given full authority over their nationality status.
- Citizenship would be lost under certain circumstances, such as the adoption of citizenship of another country.
- Provision would be made for instruction in the rights and responsibilities of citizenship and for appropriate citizenship ceremonies, including a revised oath of allegiance.
- An applicant for citizenship could substitute 20 years of residence in Canada for a knowledge of English or French.

With the enactment of this revolutionary piece of legislation Canada became the first Commonwealth country to create its own class of citizenship separate from that of Great Britain. Henceforth Canadian citizenship could be acquired by immigrants who had been naturalized in Canada, non-Canadian British subjects who had lived in Canada for five or more years, and non-Canadian women who had married Canadian citizens and who had come to live in Canada.

[See <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/department/legacy/chap-5.html> ]

## The Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms

The Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms establishes the basic principles and values by which Canadians live and govern themselves. It guarantees that everyone, regardless of colour, religion, race or belief, has certain fundamental rights that no government can take away without cause. Some of these rights are:

- Democratic rights, such as the right to vote;
- Legal rights, such as the right to a fair trial;
- Equality rights, such as the right to protection against discrimination;
- Mobility rights, such as the right to live and work anywhere in Canada;
- Aboriginal peoples' rights; and
- Basic freedoms, such as freedom of thought, freedom of speech, and freedom of peaceful assembly.

See [http://canada.justice.gc.ca/en/news/fs/2003/doc\\_30898.html](http://canada.justice.gc.ca/en/news/fs/2003/doc_30898.html)

## Film Capsules

BBC Film: A Son of Africa (28 minutes).

*The Interesting Narration of the Life of Olaudah Equiano, or Gustavus Vassa the African* was the first influential slave autobiography. It caused a sensation when published in 1789, fueling a growing anti-slavery movement in the United States and England. This BBC production employs dramatic reconstruction, archival material and interviews with scholars such as Stuart Hall and Ian Duffield to provide the social and economic context of the 18th century slave trade.

Equiano's narrative begins in the West African village where he was kidnapped into slavery in 1756. He vividly recalls the pestilence and horror of the Middle Passage: "I now wished for the last friend, Death, to relieve me." Eventually the young Equiano was shipped to a Virginia plantation where he witnessed slaves tortured with thumbscrews and the iron muzzle. Slavery, he would write, brutalizes everyone - the slaves, their overseers, plantation wives, the whole of society. Sold again to a British naval officer, he learned to read and write, became a skilled trader, and eventually managed to buy his freedom.

Equiano's adventures eventually brought him to London where he married into English society and became a leading abolitionist. His exposé of the infamous slaver Zong - 133 slaves thrown overboard in mid-ocean for the insurance money - shook the nation. But it was Equiano's book that would prove his most lasting contribution to the abolitionist movement, a book which vividly demonstrated the humanity of Africans as much as the inhumanity of slavery. Producer: Aimimage Productions, Director: Alrick Riley.

CBC Film: Freedom's Land: Canada and the Underground Railroad (52 minutes).

Canada and the Underground Railroad became the focal point of the anti-slavery movement in the decade leading up to the American Civil War. Alexander Ross, a young Canadian physician, poses as a birdwatcher and risks his life in the American south to help escaping slaves make it to freedom in Canada. Henry Bibb becomes the first former slave to publish a newspaper in Canada, which he uses to beat down racial prejudice here, as well as south of the border. And it's in Canada that John Brown begins his famous campaign to overthrow slavery – one that ends in bloodshed at Harper's Ferry and becomes known as the first shot in the American Civil War. This is the story, told through manuscripts, letters and dramatic reconstructions, of the incredible exodus of thousands of African-Americans to Canada in the 1850s, and how Canadians both embraced and shunned the newcomers. Producer: Marcy Cuttler.

Anthony Sherwood, an award-winning filmmaker and one of Canada's most successful black film actors, will introduce the film. Sherwood's next work, "A Hundred Years of Faith," is a documentary film to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Union United Church, the oldest black church in the Province of Quebec. Founded by blacks who emigrated from the United States, the church has been a spiritual haven and cultural emporium for several generations of Black Canadians, including distinguished musicians Oscar Peterson and Oliver Jones. The film will have its world premiere on April 15, 2007, in Montreal, Quebec, Canada. [email: [asherc468@rogers.com](mailto:asherc468@rogers.com) phone: 905-495-9188].

Black, Copper, & Bright: The District of Columbia's Black Civil War Regiment Preview (13 minutes).

Based on the first book ever published on the First Regiment, United States Colored Troops (USCT), organized in Washington, DC in the spring of 1863. This regiment fought its way across a dozen bloody battlefields in Virginia and North Carolina during the American Civil War. Men of "African Descent" flocked to its ranks from nearly every county in Maryland and Virginia, the Middle Atlantic States, Canada and the Caribbean. The men, fugitive slaves and free blacks, assembled and trained against a tumultuous backdrop of political infighting, ambitious generals, and racism so naked and violent that the soldiers were sent to an island in the middle of the Potomac River to escape attacks by pro-Confederate ruffians in the nation's capital, the heart of the Union. At the end of the war, the regiment made history by being the first African American troops to be received by the President of the United States at the White House. A Three Dimensional Publishing Production. Producer: Dexter Akinsheye. Writer: C.R. Gibbs.

Honour Before Glory (Canada's Only All Black Battalion during World War I) (66 minutes).

Is an exciting documentary film about Canada's one and only all-Black battalion, the No. 2 Construction Battalion. The story is based on the diary of Reverend William White, the only Black commissioned officer in the entire British Armed Forces during the First World War. Poetic and eloquent descriptions from William White's diary provide an emotional narrative for the documentary. Through compelling dramatizations, personal interviews, and archival film footage, details of his story come to life in the film. As the contents of the diary are revealed, we learn how this unique battalion overcame immense obstacles of discrimination to become an important part of Canadian history. Blacks from Canada, the United States and the Caribbean served in the battalion. Writer/Producer/Director: Canadian actor Anthony Sherwood (the great-nephew of William White).

Anthony Sherwood, an award-winning filmmaker and one of Canada's most successful black film actors, will introduce the film. Sherwood's next work, "A Hundred Years of Faith," is a documentary film to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Union United Church, the oldest black church in the Province of Quebec. Founded by blacks who emigrated from the United States, the church has been a spiritual haven and cultural emporium for several generations of Black Canadians, including distinguished musicians Oscar Peterson and Oliver Jones. The film will have its world premiere on April 15, 2007, in Montreal, Quebec, Canada. [email: [asherc468@rogers.com](mailto:asherc468@rogers.com) phone: 905-495-9188].