



Cultures of Independence: Perspectives on Independence Hall and the Meaning of Freedom

**A 2015 NEH Landmarks of American History and Culture
Workshop for School Teachers**

June 21-26 and July 26-31, 2015

**Faculty and Staff
Draft of 12/11/14**

Project Co-Director – Dr. Charlene Mires

Dr. Mires is an associate professor of history at Rutgers University's Camden campus and director of the Mid-Atlantic Regional Center for the Humanities (MARCH). She is also editor-in-chief and co-founder of the Encyclopedia of Greater Philadelphia project, a digital information resource and future publication. She has authored numerous books, articles, and chapters on public history and place, including the primary reading for this workshop, *Independence Hall in American Memory* (University of Pennsylvania Press). Dr. Mires recently partnered with the NYU Press on the book, *Capital of the World: the Race to Host the United Nations* (2013).

Project Co-Director – Beth Twiss-Houting

Twiss-Houting is currently the Senior Director of Programs & Services at the Historical Society of Pennsylvania. She holds an M.A. from the Winterthur Program in Early American Culture of the University of Delaware. She has developed and managed numerous K-12 teacher workshops and summer institutes in both her current and previous positions. Most recently, Twiss-Houting ran a summer teacher institute focused on the concept of "thrift" and how to include it in classroom curriculum. In addition, she has experience in program evaluation which will be valuable in this project's assessment (see CV).

Workshop Faculty

Dr. Gary B. Nash is the director of the National Center for History in the Schools and professor of history at the University of California Los Angeles. Dr. Nash earned his Ph.D. from Princeton University. In addition to publishing a number of award winning books (one of which will be used in this workshop), Dr. Nash has been the recipient of a number of professional honors, including the UCLA Distinguished Teacher Award and the Distinguished Service Award by the Organization of American Historians (OAH). His research interests include early American history and issues of race and class in early American history.

Dr. Randall M. Miller (Ph.D. Ohio State University) is the William Dirk Warren '50 Sesquicentennial Chair & Professor of History at Saint Joseph's University. He is the author or editor of more than twenty books on subjects as varied as urban affairs, religion, politics, slavery and race, the American South, the Civil War and Reconstruction, mass media, diaries, and immigrants and ethnicity. He co-edited *Pennsylvania: A History of the Commonwealth* (Penn State Press, 2002), and he is the former editor of the *Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography*.

Dr. Emma J. Lapsansky-Werner (Ph.D. University of Pennsylvania) is a professor of history at Haverford College. Her professional, research, and teaching interests include family and community life, antebellum cities, Quaker history, and religion and popular culture in the nineteenth-century America. Lapsansky-Werner has published on all these topics, including *Back to Africa: Benjamin Coates and the Colonization Movement in America, 1848 -1880*; (2005, with Margaret Hope Bacon) and *Neighborhoods in Transition*.

Holly Holst has worked as a park ranger at Independence National Historical Park since 2005. She develops and implements interpretive programming and presents it to park visitors, including teacher and student groups. One of her specific goals in her role at INHP is to ensure that women's history becomes a larger part of the story told by INHP and its programs.

Jeffrey Collins has managed both the education program and the volunteer program at Independence National Historical Park since 2008. Collins is responsible for managing more than 200 volunteers. He also oversees the \$2.5 million budget of the Independence Park Institute (education division) that provides up to seven teacher workshops throughout the year as well as two summer teacher institutes.

Dr. Thomas J. Sugrue is David Boies Professor of History and Sociology, and Director of the Penn Social Science and Policy Forum at the University of Pennsylvania. A specialist in twentieth-century American politics, urban history, civil rights, and race, Sugrue was educated at Columbia; King's College, Cambridge; and Harvard, where he earned his Ph.D. in 1992. He is a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and President of the Urban History Association.

Dr. Cynthia J. Little is a contracted historian at the Philadelphia History Museum where she has served in this role in some capacity since 2002. Before that she filled many roles for the Historical Society of Pennsylvania. Dr. Little earned her Ph.D. from Temple University with a focus on Latin American history.

Since 2008, **Andrea Reidell** has served as an education specialist at the National Archives at Philadelphia where she develops programming and nurtures new partnerships. She is the Deputy Regional Coordinator for National History Day and helped create an award-winning fieldwork program for pre-service social studies education students at Temple University that matches these students with regional museums and cultural organizations. Reidell earned her M.A. in history from the University of Minnesota.