



Preservation League *of* NYS

SLEEPING WITH THE ANCESTORS: AUTHOR TALK WITH JOSEPH MCGILL & HERB FRAZIER



An African-American family standing in front of former slave quarters at the Hermitage Plantation in Savannah, Georgia. PUBLIC DOMAIN

Thank you to our sponsor, the Peggy N. & Roger G. Gerry Chairtable Trust /// The program will begin shortly



Preservation League *of* NYS

We are New York's statewide nonprofit focused on investing in people and projects that champion the essential role of preservation in community revitalization, sustainable economic growth, and the protection of our historic buildings and landscapes. preservenys.org

WHAT DOES THE LEAGUE DO?

We provide **grants** that jump start preservation projects;
Advocate for preservation at the local, state, and national level;
Provide **technical assistance**;
Collaborate with local colleagues across the state;
Award excellence in historic preservation;
Draw attention to **at-risk** historic sites;
Offer engaging **virtual programs**

FY 22-23 BY THE NUMBERS

\$378,066 in grants awarded to 40 Projects
\$7,500 awarded in preservation scholarships
37 in-person and virtual presentations, approx. 3,000 attendees
200 technical service inquiries fielded
37 meetings with state and federal Legislators





Preservation
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    @preservenys

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the Peggy N. & Roger G. Gerry Charitable Trust**

Check our website for more upcoming programs:
preservenys.org/future-of-preservation-webinar-series
preservenys.org/preservation-book-club
preservenys.org/calendar



Housekeeping Notes

Yes, this webinar is being recorded! You can find this and all of our virtual programs on our YouTube Channel: youtube.com/c/preservationleague

Captions are enabled! You can turn captions on through your Zoom taskbar.

Please drop **questions in the Q&A Box** (not the Chat).

Follow **@preservationbookclub** and **@preservenys** on Instagram!

CE Credits are available.

preservation book club



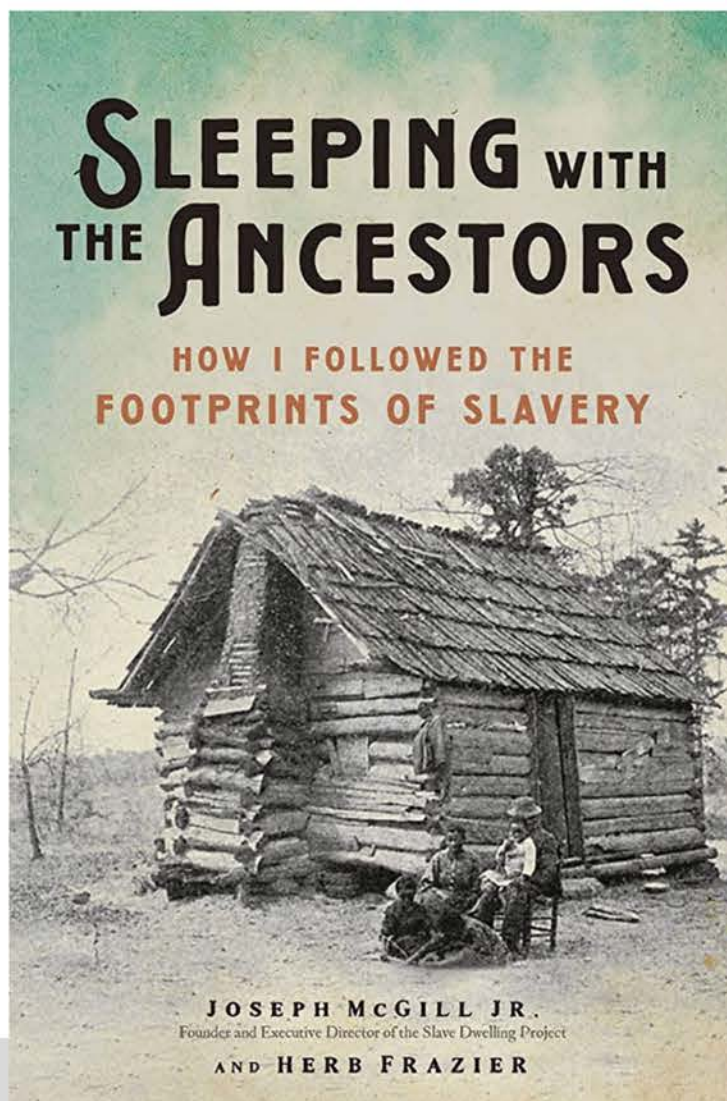
Continuing Education Credits

We are pleased to offer 1.0 CE credits for architects offered through the New York State Education Department.

Please note: The League does not report to NYSED the way that other credit programs (ex., AIA) would. Certificates of completion are for each architect's individual records and reporting procedures for maintaining licensure.

If you would like to claim CE credits for attending this program, please email info@preservenys.org, specifying the program title and include your name, firm, telephone number, and email address.





Sleeping with the Ancestors: How I Followed the Footprints of Slavery

Written by Slave Dwelling Project Founder Joseph McGill Jr. and Herb Frazier

The personal account of one man's groundbreaking project to sleep overnight in the countless oft-overlooked former slave dwellings that still stand across the country, the fascinating history behind those sites, and how he has used the experiences to shed light on larger issues of race in America.

Following Joseph and Herb's presentation they will be joined in conversation by Donnamarie Barnes, the Director of History & Heritage at Sylvester Manor Educational Farm.

Donnamarie Barnes began working at Sylvester Manor Educational Farm in 2014 as a volunteer and history docent. In 2016, she joined the staff full time as Curator & Archivist. Her ongoing work as the Director of History & Heritage includes researching the lives and identities of the Enslaved, Free People of Color, and Indigenous People of Sylvester Manor and the East of Long Island, interpreting their stories into the Manor's narrative and serving as the liaison between partner organization and institutions of higher learning. In addition, Donnamarie is involved in conserving and interpreting the various collections at Sylvester Manor.

Donnamarie serves on the steering committee of The Northern Slavery Collective, the board of trustees of the Greater Hudson Heritage Network, and is the Co-Director of the Plain Sight Project on the East End of Long Island.





Joseph McGill, Jr. is the founder of the Slave Dwelling Project and a history consultant for Magnolia Plantation in Charleston, SC. By arranging for people to sleep in extant slave dwellings, the Slave Dwelling Project has brought much needed attention to these often-neglected structures that are vitally important to the American built environment.

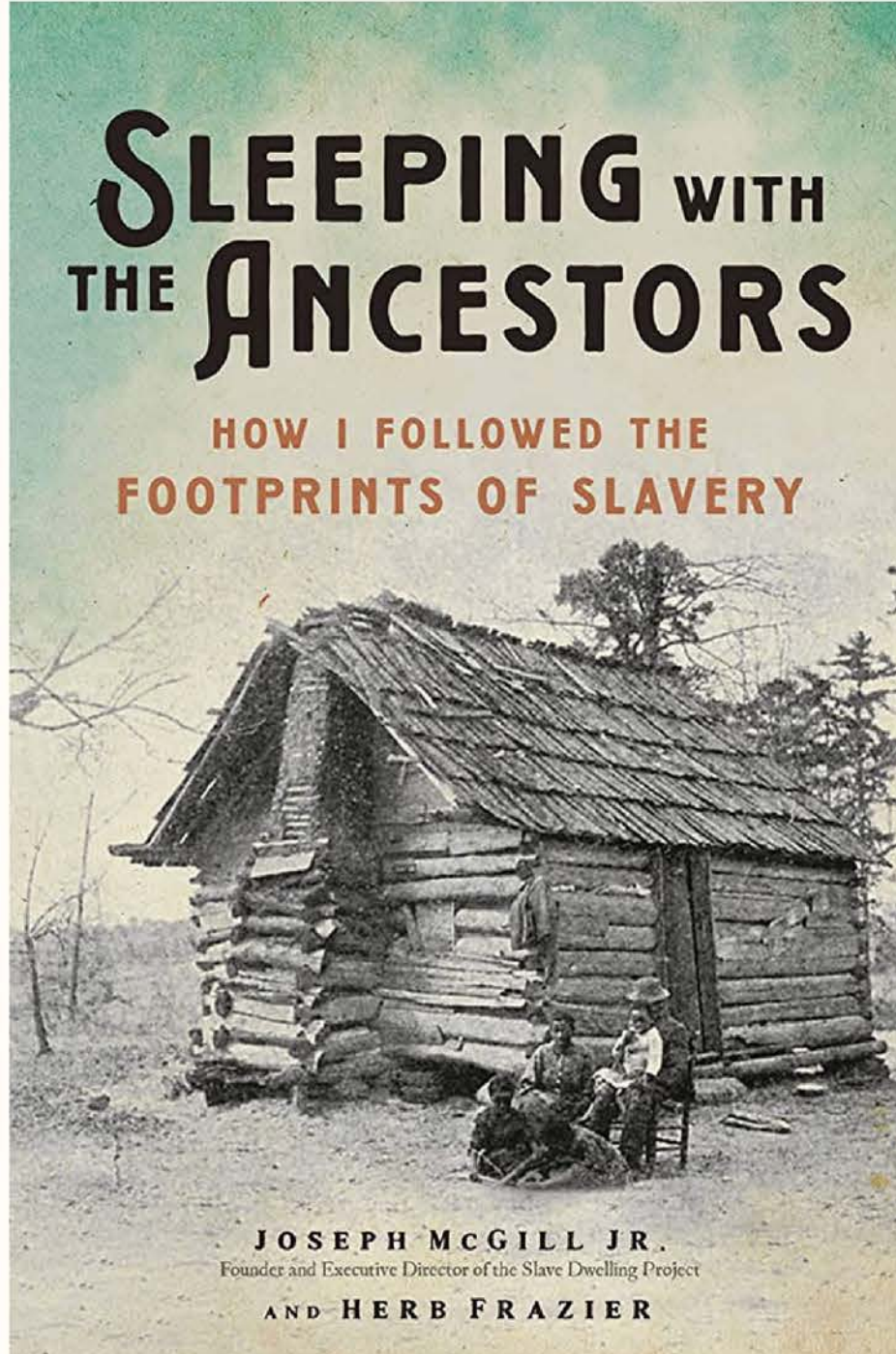
Prior to his current position, Mr. McGill has been a field officer for the National Trust for Historic Preservation; Executive Director of the African American Museum in Cedar Rapids, Iowa; Director of History and Culture at Penn Center, St. Helena Island, South Carolina; and a Park Ranger at Fort Sumter National Monument in Charleston. He is also the founder of Company "I" 54th Massachusetts Reenactment Regiment in Charleston, South Carolina.



Herb Frazier is a Charleston, South Carolina-based writer. He is currently the Special Projects Editor for the *Charleston City Paper*, and was formerly the marketing director at Magnolia Plantation and Gardens following a long career in daily journalism.

Frazier is the author of *Behind God's Back: Gullah Memories* and co-author of *We Are Charleston: Tragedy and Triumph at Mother Emanuel* with Marjory Wentworth and Dr. Bernard Powers Jr. Frazier is also the co-editor of *Ukweli: Searching for Healing Truth, South Carolina Writers and Poets Examine American Racism*.

He has been named a "Journalist of the Year" by the South Carolina Press Association and was a former Journalism Fellow at the University of Michigan. He formerly represented South Carolina on the Gullah Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor Commission, created by the U.S. Congress in 2006.

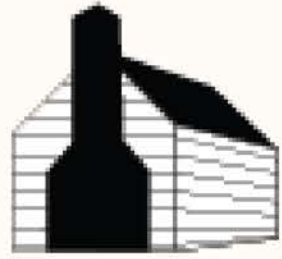


Sleeping with the Ancestors: How I Followed the Footprints of Slavery

The personal account of one man's groundbreaking project to sleep overnight in the countless oft-overlooked former slave dwellings that still stand across the country, the fascinating history behind those sites, and how he has used the experiences to shed light on larger issues of race in America.

Joseph McGill Jr., a historic preservationist and Civil War reenactor, founded the Slave Dwelling Project in 2010 based on an idea that was sparked and first developed in 1999. Since founding the project, McGill has been touring the country, spending the night in former slave dwellings – throughout the South, but also the North and the West, where people are often surprised to learn that such structures exist. Events and gatherings are arranged around these overnight stays, and it provides a unique way to understand the often otherwise obscured and distorted history of slavery. The project has inspired difficult conversations about race in communities from South Carolina to Alabama to Texas to Minnesota to New York, and all over the United States.

Sleeping with the Ancestors: How I Followed the Footprints of Slavery focuses on all of the key sites McGill has visited in his ongoing project and digs deeper into the actual history of each location, using McGill's own experience and conversations with the community to enhance those original stories. Altogether, McGill and coauthor Herb Frazier give readers an important unexpected emersion into the history of slavery, and especially the obscured and ignored aspects of that history.

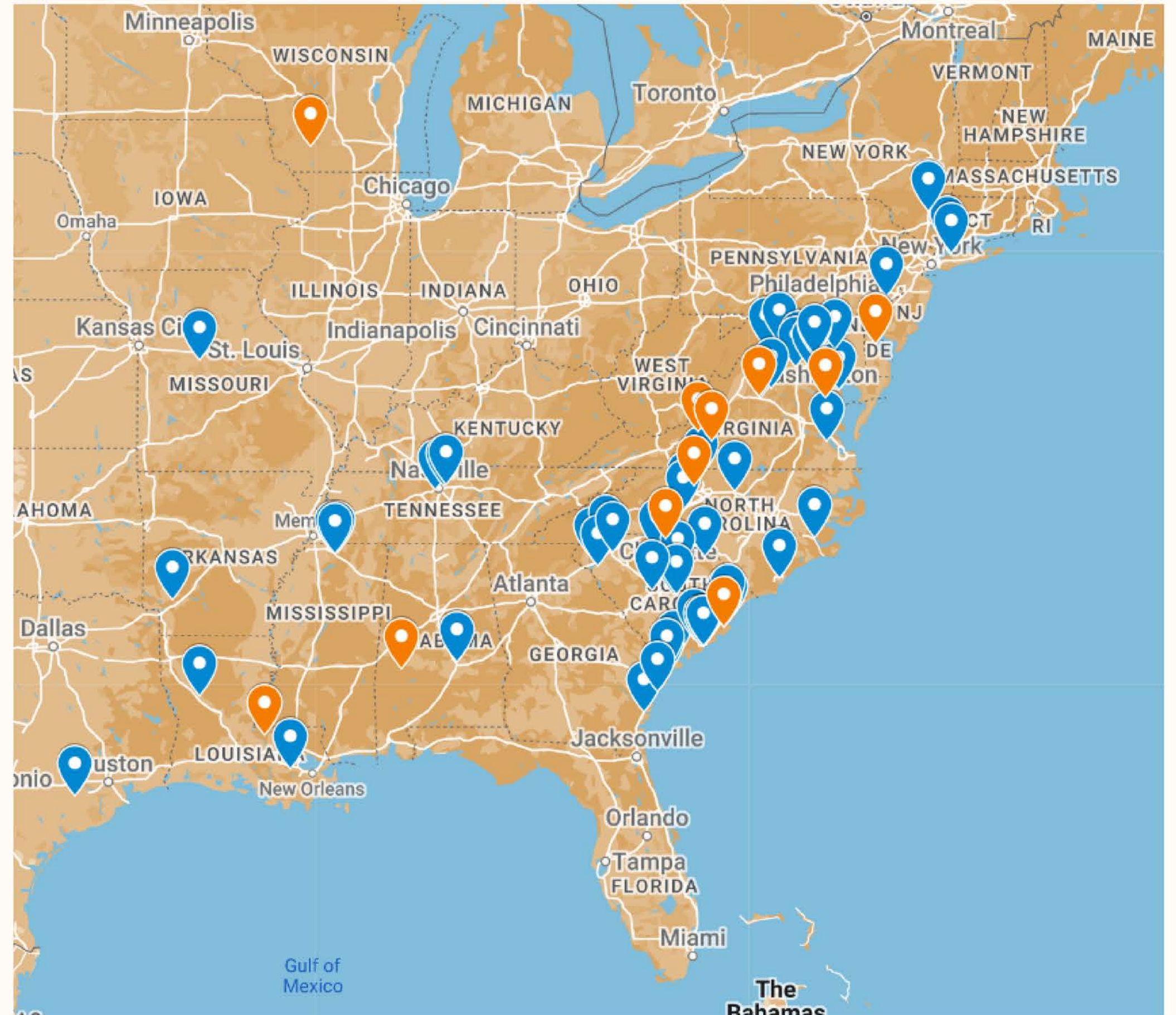


THE SLAVE DWELLING PROJECT

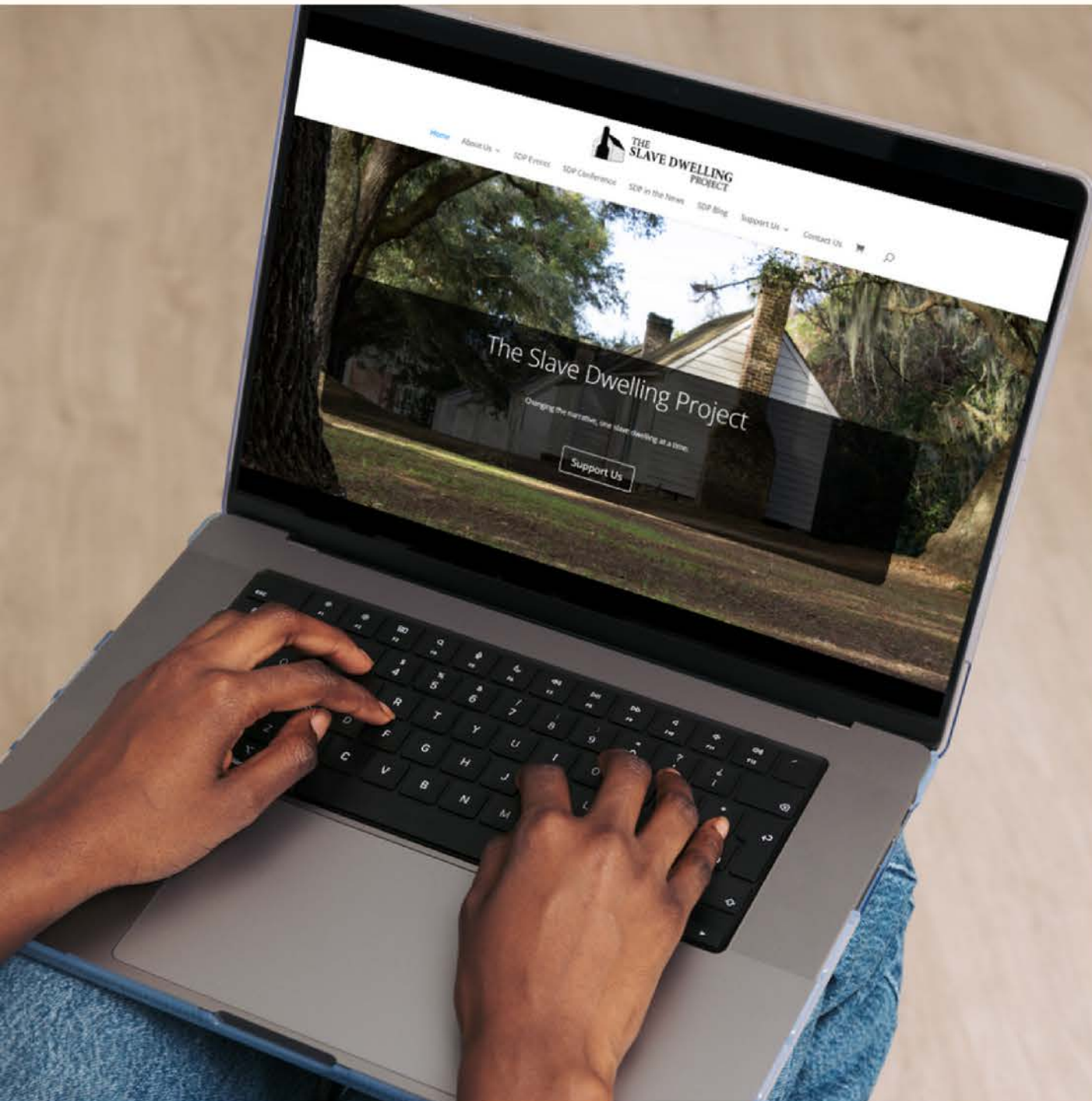
The Slave Dwelling Project envisions a future in which the hearts and minds of Americans acknowledge a more truthful and inclusive narrative of the history of the nation that honors the contributions of all our people, is embedded and preserved in the buildings and artifacts of people of African heritage, and inspires all Americans to acknowledge their Ancestors.

As of the beginning of 2018, **Joseph McGill has conducted over 250 overnights in approximately 100 different sites across 19 states and the District of Columbia.**

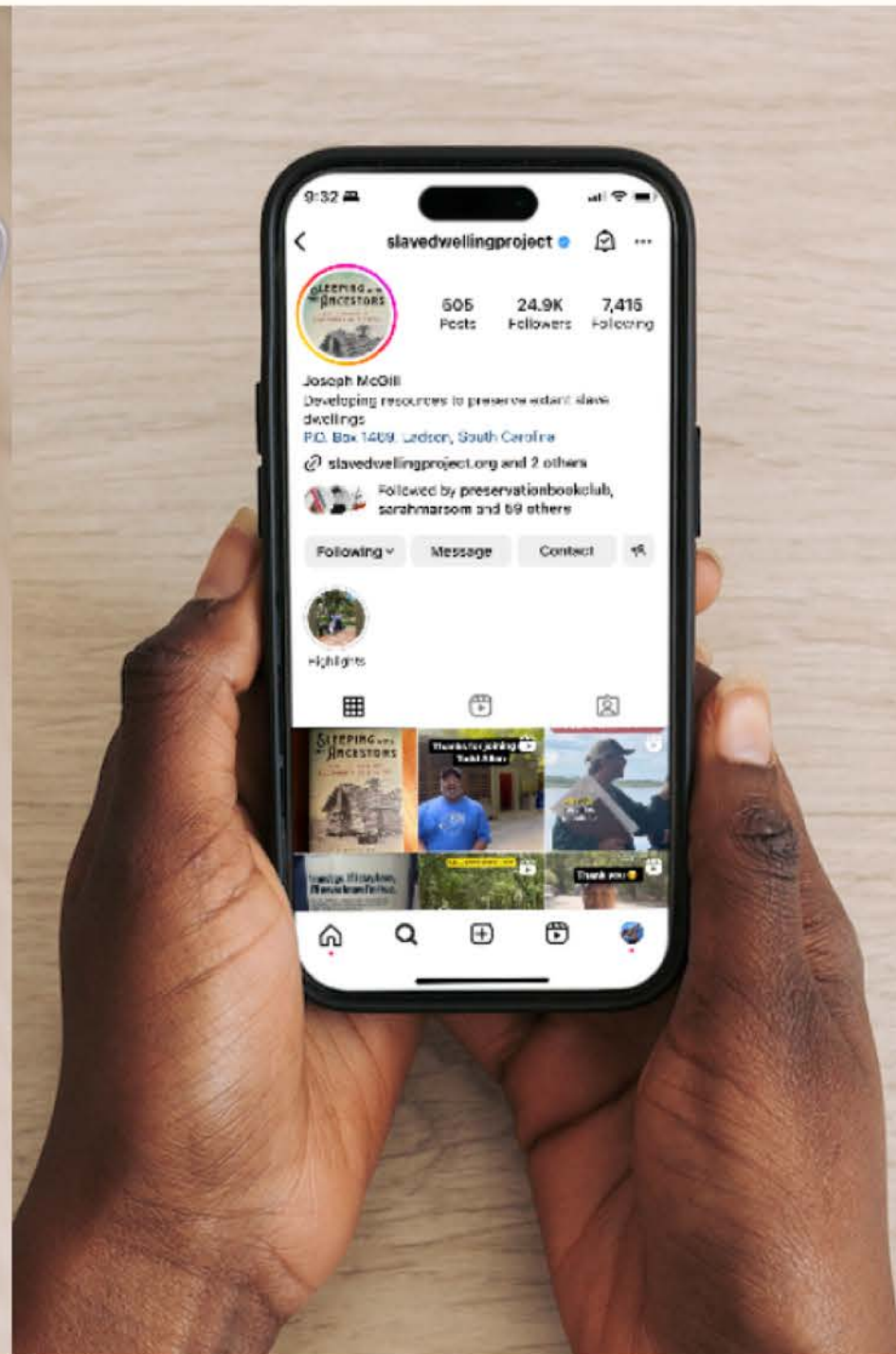
The Slave Dwelling Project has held an annual conference every year since 2013. In 2016, the Project expanded to offer a program of living history called “Inalienable Rights: Living History Through the Eyes of the Enslaved.”



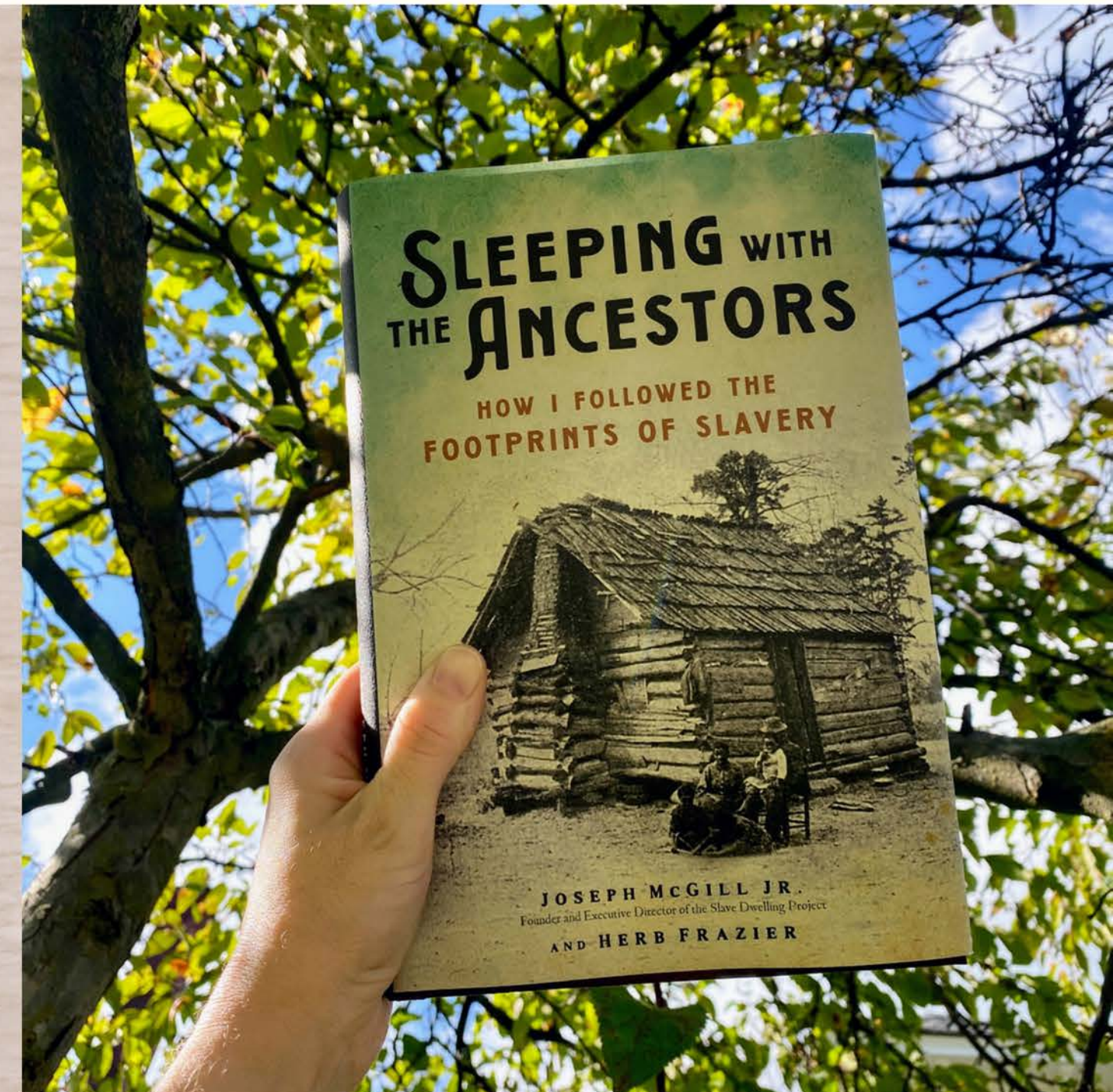
WEBSITE
slavedwellingproject.org

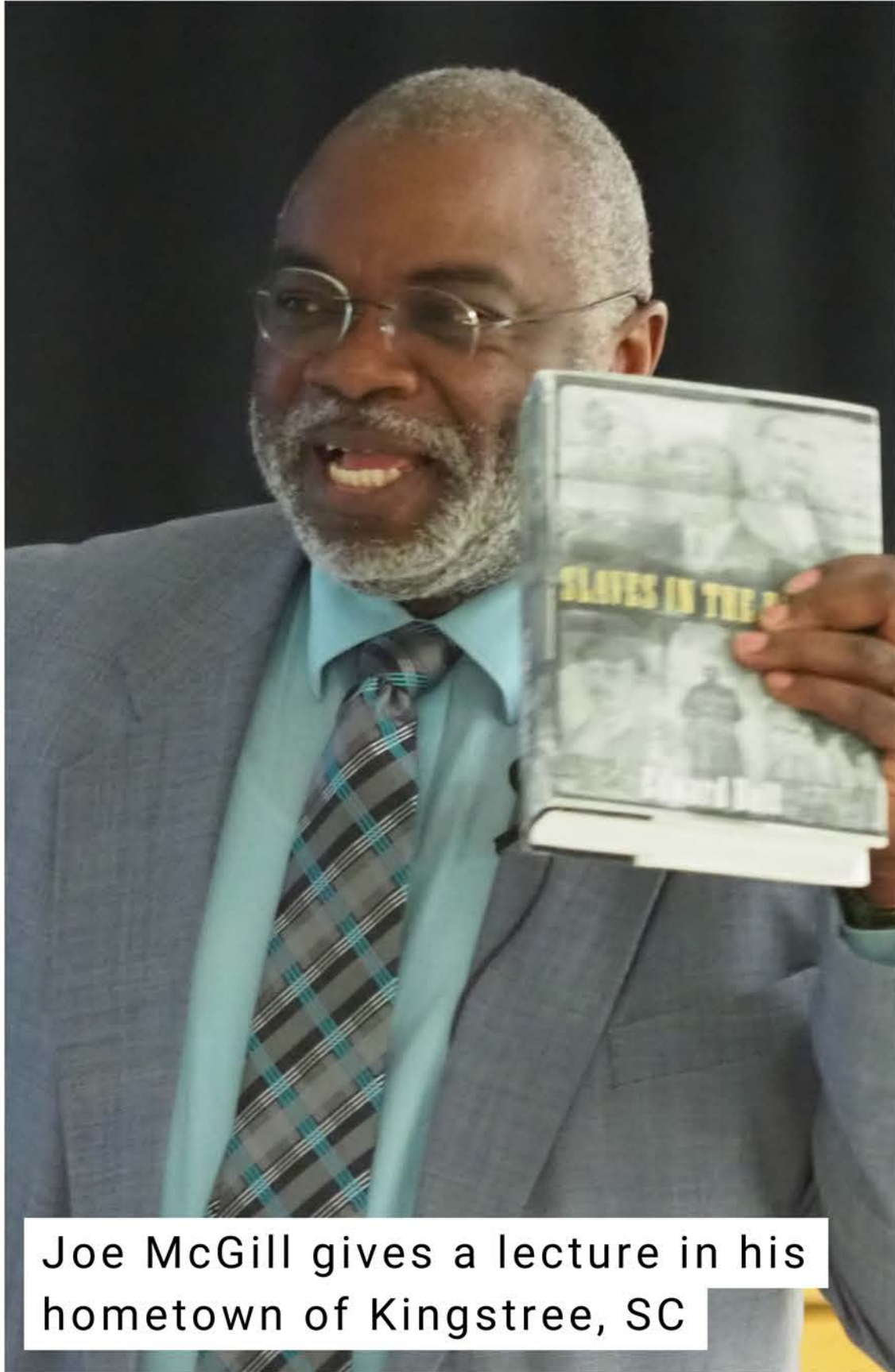


INSTAGRAM
@slavedwellingproject



THE BOOK
Sleeping With the Ancestors





Joe McGill gives a lecture in his hometown of Kingstree, SC



McGill on a kayak tour on the Combahee River to honor Harriet Tubman



This is the slave cabin where Joe McGill spent the night at Riverside Plantation in Alabama. Photo by Herb Frazier.



This is the interior of the slave cabin in Bluffton, South Carolina, where Joe McGill spent the night. Photo by Herb Frazier



The attic at Sylvester Manor.



This is the Hobcaw Barony cabin where Joe McGill and *Charlotte Observer* reporter Eric Frazier spent the night. Photo by Herb Frazier



Joseph McGill with the Dickerson-Wood family at their family reunion at Somerset Plantation in Creswell, North Carolina

September 22-24

Book signing and sleepover at the Lefferts Historic House in Prospect Park, Brooklyn, NY



Prospect Park Alliance has launched ReImagine Lefferts, an initiative to re-envision the mission and programming of the Lefferts Historic House museum to recognize its role as a site of slavery, and tell the stories—in innovative, inclusive and forward-thinking ways—of the enslaved Africans who lived and worked on the Lefferts farm, and the Indigenous people of the Lenapehoking whose unceded ancestral lands the farm rested upon.



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