



defiance public library system
Defiance • Sherwood • Hicksville

MEDIA RELEASE

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June event highlights Defiance Black Civil War History

[DEFIANCE] – **In conjunction with the Juneteenth holiday**, Defiance Black Civil War History will be the focus of a special presentation June 7 at 6 p.m. at the Stroede Center for the Arts, 319 Wayne Ave., Defiance, cohosted by Defiance Public Library System (DPLS) and Dr. Jeremy Taylor, professor of history at Defiance College.

Sarah Marshall, adult services associate at Defiance Public Library, and Berne Heilshorn will discuss their research on Worthington Cemetery—Defiance County’s only historic Black cemetery—and the Worthington family, as it relates to the Civil War.

Dr. Taylor will present on the Black men who enlisted in the war from Defiance County.

Marshall and Heilshorn’s ongoing efforts to research Worthington Cemetery have produced answers that lead to even more questions.

“We know that Archibald [Worthington]’s son Henry Worthington joined the 54th Regiment, the first all-African American regiment from the North,” Marshall said. “They mustered out of Massachusetts, to serve in the Civil War. But, Archibald mustered in just a few months later in a regiment made up of several counties of men in Northwest Ohio. This was long before there was integration of troops. How was he able to join and did he join to find out what happened to his son?”

Marshall’s research to this point on Worthington Cemetery is available to read at defiancelibrary.org/blog. The presentation is free and geared to ages 13+. No tickets or registration are required.