

Institute for the Study of the Reconstruction Era (ISRE)

2025 Spring Symposium Agenda

April 25-26, 2025

USCB Center for the Arts

Friday, April 25th – 6 pm to 8 pm Reception

Performance: Robert Smalls Leadership Academy choral ensemble

Keynote Presentation ***‘My Unbound Joy’: Susie King-Taylor and the War of Jubilee***

Dr. Hermina Glass-Hill, Executive Director, The Susie King-Taylor Institute

Saturday, April 26th – 9 am to 3:30pm (doors open at 8:30 am)

9-9:20 am Welcome

9:20 – 9:45 am Opening Remarks

Dr. Valinda Littlefield, Director USCB ISRE

Professor Emerita of History, USC Columbia

Council Mitch Mitchell, City of Beaufort, SC

9:45-10:25 Session 1

***The Elizabeth Hyde Botume Collection & Poetic Echoes of the Reconstruction Era:
Ellen Murray's Reflections***

Nathan Betcher, Historian & Sam Mischke, Park Ranger

Reconstruction Era National Historical Park

Break (10 mins.)

10:40 – 11:20 Session 2

Esther Hill Hawks: Doctor, Educator, Abolitionist

Jennifer Marler – A.B.D, USC Department of History

Complimentary Lunch 11:20 – 12:20

Saturday, April 26th – 9 am to 3:30pm (continued)

12:20 – 1:05 Breakout Panel Discussions (please select one to attend)

Education in Beaufort from The Port Royal Experiment to Present (Classroom)

(Dr. Robert L Adams, Executive Director Penn Center; Mrs. Alvesta Roberson, Mather School Alumnus; Bradley Tarrance, Principal Robert Smalls Leadership Academy; Dondi Lyons)

Supporting The Legacy of the 1st South Carolina Volunteers of African Descent (Classroom)

(James Morrall, Secretary, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War; Linda Robinson, Women's Relief Corp; Dr. Dawn Chitty, Dir. Of Education, African American Civil War Museum)

Honoring the Service of the Men and Women of the 1st South Carolina Volunteers of African Descent (Auditorium)

(Ben Hodges, LTG, US Army (RET); Rory McGovern, LTC, US Army Academy Professor, Department of History; Dr. Najmah Thomas, Assoc. Professor, Health & Human Services, USCB)

Break (10 mins.)

1:15 – 1:45 Session 3

Antebellum experiences of the men and women of the 1st SCVAD

Dr. James Shinn, Assistant Professor of History, USCB
Upper-Level Undergraduate Students (Hist 492)

1:45 – 2:25 Session 4

Documenting Resilience: Women's Voices in the USCT Pension Records

Elizabeth Laney, Research Associate, ISRE

2:25 – 3:05 Session 5

Inherited Strength: The Enduring Echoes of Women's Legacies

Panel discussion with Descendants of US Colored Troop Veterans

Dr. Larry Watson, Professor of History

South Carolina State University, ISRE Board Member - Moderator

3:05 - 3:20 Closing Remarks