For Immediate Release

A New Book Celebrates Harrisburg, Pennsylvania’s Historic African American Community*.*

The University of North Dakota

Grand Forks, ND

The Digital Press at the University of North Dakota is proud to announce the release of *One Hundred Voices, Harrisburg’s Historic African American Community, 1850-1920* edited by Calobe Jackson, Jr., Katie Wingert McArdle, David Pettegrew, and with a foreword by Lenwood Sloan*.* The book is a collaboration with the Commonwealth Monument Project and Digital Harrisburg as they celebrate a new monument in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania which commemorates the passing of the Fifteenth and Nineteenth Amendments giving African Americans and women the right to vote.

The book tells the story of 100 individuals whose names who will appear on the bronze pedestal of the Commonwealth Monument. Called “A Gathering at the Crossroads” this monument is dedicated to the capital city’s significant African American community and its historic struggle for the vote. These name inscribed on the bronze pedestal represent a cross section of the activists who lived and worked in Harrisburg's African American community and include freedom seekers, abolitionists, suffragists, policemen, masons, doctors, lawyers, poets, teachers, preachers, janitors, and business leaders, who shared a committed advocacy for freedom, equality, and justice.

Lenwood Slone, the executive director of the Commonwealth Monument Project, described the project as "more than a monument but a movement of solidarity, scholarship, and fellowship. It becomes the first monument commemorating the 15th and 19th amendment and heralding the value of the vote to be placed on any capitol complex in the nation.”

The book, *One Hundred Voices*, tells the story of these individuals and represents a partnership between the Commonwealth Monument Project and the Digital Harrisburg initiative which is a collaboration between Messiah University, Harrisburg University of Science and Technology, and local community partners.

David Pettegrew, a historian at Messiah College and with the Digital Harrisburg project, describes this work as "marking the culmination of a fruitful collaboration between community historians, educators, and students who have engaged in research of a subject of greatest relevance. It presents a window to Harrisburg’s historic African American community and an invitation to make your own discoveries about the resilient catalysts inspired through faith and conviction to fight for freedom and political equality, social and economic opportunity, and moral improvement.”

Katie Wingert McArdle, who co-edited the book with Pettegrew and Calobe Jackson Jr., observed "When we researchers paused to listen to these "one hundred voices," we have heard echoes more powerful and beautiful than we could have possibly fathomed."

Calobe Jackson Jr., a historian of Harrisburg African American studies who edited the book and helped develop the initial list of names noted: “Our *One Hundred Voices* book is a new start to sharing the history of Harrisburg.”

The Commonwealth Monument will be unveiled in an event attended by the governor of Pennsylvania, the mayor of Harrisburg, and other dignitaries on August 26th, 2020.

For more on this book and the project contact David Pettegrew ([dpettegrew@messiah.edu](mailto:dpettegrew@messiah.edu)).

The book is available as a free open-access download or as a low-cost paperback here: <https://thedigitalpress.org/100-voices/>

For more on the Commonwealth Monument Project, go here: <https://digitalharrisburg.com/commonwealth/>

For images of the Commonwealth Monuments see Commonwealth\_Monument.jpg, Commonwealth\_Monument\_Detail\_1.jpg, and Commonwealth\_Monument\_Detail\_2.jpg

For more on Digital Harrisburg go here: <https://digitalharrisburg.com/>