

LECTURE Series

Friday, April 30, 2027

7 pm Eastern / 4 pm Pacific



With LARRY A. McCLUNEY

PARADOX OF FREEDOM: A History of Black Slaveholders in America

The existence of free Black slaveholders challenges our conventional understandings of the antebellum South. It prompts us to question the rigidity of the racial hierarchy, to consider the multifaceted nature of freedom, and to recognize the complexities of power dynamics within a system built on the foundation of forced labor.

This presentation delves into the little-known history of Free Black slaveholders, exploring the social, economic, and legal factors that shaped their lives and experiences. It examines their motivations, their relationships with both the white slaveholding class and the enslaved population, and the impact of their status as slaveholders on their lives, their acceptance within the community, and their place in the social hierarchy after the War Between the States.



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