

## HCA-sponsored Black History Month programs

The Delaware Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs' (HCA) is celebrating Black History Month with a number of programs that will take place throughout the month of February, 2010. Additional programs with a connection to the African-American experience in Delaware and the nation will be taking place at other times during the year. A complete list of programs is available below.

[Black History Month](#) is a national annual observance for remembrance of important people and events in the history of the African diaspora. It is celebrated annually in the United States and Canada in February and the United Kingdom in the month of October.



Display from the exhibit, "Emeline Hawkins: Her Journey from Slavery to Freedom on the Underground Railroad."

## Special Events

**February 6, 2010**

**"End Slavery! Stop the War!"** In 1861, President Abraham Lincoln initiated a strategy to end both slavery and the Civil War. Delaware played a key role in debating the issue which will be dramatized as historical interpreters take on the personas of two members of the Delaware General Assembly—one a Lincoln Republican and the other a "Copperhead" Democrat—as they argue Lincoln's proposed legislation in the Old State House, scene of the state's original deliberations. [The Old State House](#), 25 The Green, Dover, DE 19901. Programs begin at 10 and 11:30 a.m., and 1 p.m. Free admission. 302-744-5055.

## Exhibits

**Ongoing**

**["Emeline Hawkins: Her Journey from Slavery to Freedom on the Underground Railroad."](#)**

Exhibit chronicles the compelling story of Emeline Hawkins and her family, and their 1845 odyssey on the Underground Railroad from slavery in Maryland, through Delaware, to freedom in Pennsylvania. [New Castle Court House Museum](#), 211 Delaware St., New Castle, DE 19720. Wed.–Sat., 10 a.m.–3:30 p.m. Free admission. 302-323-4453.

## Featured museum displays and tours

**Ongoing**

**New Castle Court House Museum.** Built in 1732, the New Castle Court House served as Delaware's first court and state capitol. In addition to the exhibit "[Emeline Hawkins: Her Journey from Slavery to Freedom on the Underground Railroad](#)," the museum is currently featuring "Network to Freedom," a display which further explores the building's connection to the Underground Railroad. The museum also offers guided tours for walk-in visitors and for school groups on the topic, as well as on the trial of Delaware abolitionist Thomas Garrett. [New Castle Court House Museum](#), 211 Delaware St., New Castle, DE 19720. Wed.–Sat., 10 a.m.–3:30 p.m. Free admission. 302-323-4453.

## Ongoing

**John Dickinson Plantation.** Home of John Dickinson, one of the founding fathers of the United States and "Penman of the Revolution." Currently featured is "Network to Freedom," a display on the plantation's connection to the Underground Railroad. The site also interprets the history of slavery at the John Dickinson Plantation, and offers a special-focus tour for school groups entitled "A World Apart," which synthesizes historical data about slaves and free blacks residing in Jones Neck. [John Dickinson Plantation](#), 340 Kitts Hummock Rd., Dover, DE 19901. Wed.–Sat., 10 a.m.–3:30 p.m. Free admission. 302-739-3277.



Samuel D. Burris

## Ongoing

**The Old State House.** Completed in 1791, The Old State House served as Delaware's capitol during the United States' critical early years as a nation. The venerable structure is currently featuring a display on the Underground Railroad highlighting abolitionist Samuel D. Burris. In addition, the Old State House offers the following guided tours: "The Summers Family Saga" which tells the true story of James Summers, a free black man who manumitted his own children in 1797; and "The Story of Samuel D. Burris, Black Abolitionist from Delaware." [The Old State House](#), 25 The Green, Dover, DE 19901. Wed.–Sat., 9 a.m.–4:30 p.m. Free admission. 302-744-5055.

## Future Events

### March 6, 2010

**"Ladies First."** Women's History Month program featuring musical selections from the female pioneers of recorded sound played on authentic Victrola machines. Spotlighted performers will include Victor recording artists Rosa Ponselle, Louisa Tetrazzini, and Marian Anderson. [Johnson Victrola Museum](#), 375 S. New St., Dover, DE 19901. 9 a.m.–4:30 p.m. Free admission. 302-744-5055.



Marian Anderson

### April 3, 2010

**"Syncopated Rhythm: Duke Ellington."** Hear the music that inspired renowned composer Edward Kennedy "Duke" Ellington during the 110<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of his birth. [Johnson Victrola Museum](#), 375 S. New St., Dover, DE 19901. 9 a.m.–4:30 p.m. A children's musical activity will be available from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Free admission. 302-744-5055.

### May 1, 2010

**"Pathways to Freedom."** Explore the history of the Underground Railroad through living history, film, reenactments, and historical interpretation including a spotlight on the proposed National Harriet Tubman Scenic Byway which includes two Delaware sites—The New Castle Court House and The Old State House. The event is a component of the [77th Annual Dover Days Festival](#) presented in partnership with the Underground Railroad Coalition of Delaware and the First State Heritage Park. [The Old State House](#), 25 The Green, Dover, DE 19901. 10 a.m.–3 p.m. Free admission. 302-744-5055.

### June 5, 2010

**"Black Music Month Celebration."** Program activities TBA. [Johnson Victrola Museum](#), 375 S. New St., Dover, DE 19901. 9 a.m.–4:30 p.m. Free admission. 302-744-5055.