



PORTSMOUTH
COLORED COMMUNITY
LIBRARY
— MUSEUM —

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The History Division of the Portsmouth Museums Presents

**MEET ME AT KELLY'S CAB STAND:
An Afternoon of Remembering**

“Mr. Wilson had the best hot dogs in the world,” recalled Billie Montgomery Cook, as she related a story from her youth, growing up in Portsmouth, Virginia. “We would sneak out of church, and go down to the end of the block to Wilson’s Store. We’d eat hot dogs, and drink sodas, and talk.”

Do you remember Wilson’s Store? How about Mr. Kelly’s taxi stand? Or Bailey’s Barber Shop? If you have memories of the places that were important to the African American community in mid-20th century Portsmouth, please make plans to attend “Meet Me at Kelly’s Cab Stand: An Afternoon of Remembering,” on Sunday, October 15, at 2:00 p.m., at the Portsmouth Neighborhood Facility Recreation Center at 900 Elm Avenue in Portsmouth, followed by a reception next door at the Portsmouth Colored Community Library Museum at 904 Elm Ave.

WHRV 89.5-FM’s on-air public radio host Barbara Hamm Lee will be moderating this audience-participation discussion. Ms. Hamm Lee hosts WHRV’s Another View program on Fridays from noon - 1:00 p.m., where she discusses “today’s issues from an African American perspective.” You are encouraged to tell us about your memories of

visiting the shops, businesses, and offices that made up Portsmouth's post-WWII black business district. A local theatre troupe, The Not Just for February Players, will open the program with a skit about these important places in Portsmouth's history.

An exhibit at the Portsmouth Colored Community Library Museum about the business district was installed last year. Museum Services Assistant Bruce Ebert noticed an interesting phenomenon after the exhibit opened. "When local visitors would come into the museum, they began having really animated conversations, relating their memories of that section of town, and what it was like when they were growing up," Ebert said. This program with Barbara Hamm Lee was created to try to harness some of that energy and preserve these living memories, particularly since many of these places are gone now. The program will be professionally video recorded.

Admission is free; free parking is available at the Portsmouth Neighborhood Facility and on the surrounding streets.

The History Division of the Portsmouth Museums includes the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard Museum, the Lightship Portsmouth Museum, and the Portsmouth Colored Community Library Museum.

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