

**NEWS RELEASE**

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**Commonwealth of Pennsylvania**

Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission

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Room 308, Main Capitol

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**Contact:** Kirk Wilson

(717) 783-9882

**PENNSYLVANIA CELEBRATES JUNETEENTH WITH TWO-DAY  
DIALOGUE ON THE CIVIL WAR, CIVIL RIGHTS**

*Quest for Freedom Live and Learn Weekends Continue Across Pennsylvania*

**Harrisburg, PA** –In honor of Juneteenth (June 19<sup>th</sup>), the oldest known celebration commemorating the end of slavery in the United States, the Pennsylvania Tourism Office is encouraging participation in the Quest for Freedom Live and Learn Weekends.

The weekends provide an educational and engaging visitor experience that's rooted in the Underground Railroad and Civil War communities in the commonwealth.

“Pennsylvania is considered to be the birthplace of the American dialogue on the issues of emancipation,” said Mickey Rowley, deputy secretary of tourism in the Department of Community and Economic Development. “The Quakers in Philadelphia were the first to advocate in writing for the abolition of slavery and Pittsburgh’s Martin Delany published The Mystery newspaper to communicate with the enslaved and free in the mid 1800s. The Quest for Freedom Live and Learn Weekends provide an ideal setting to continue this discussion.”

The weekends in Philadelphia, Lancaster and Pittsburgh will include a scholar-led conversation about the corresponding books on Friday, followed by the historical site tours on Saturday.

On June 20-21, the featured book will be Eric Foner’s, “Forever Free: The Story of Emancipation and Reconstruction.” This richly illustrated narrative follows the struggle for freedom from the Civil War to civil rights. On August 15-16, the featured book will be “Lincoln on Democracy,” edited by Mario Cuomo and

Harold Holzer.

For more information about the Quest for Freedom and Live and Learn Weekends, visit [www.visitpa.com/freedom](http://www.visitpa.com/freedom).

The Pennsylvania Humanities Council and Jump Street Inc. are co-sponsors of the Quest for Freedom and Live and Learn Weekends. Borders Books, WITF-89.5 FM, American Urban Radio Network, and The New Pittsburgh Courier have provided promotional support for this project.

The Pennsylvania Tourism Office, under the state Department of Community and Economic Development, provides travelers with the information and resources they need to plan and enjoy the activities, attractions and destinations that are uniquely Pennsylvania. For more information about Pennsylvania's tourism industry, go to [www.visitPA.com](http://www.visitPA.com) or call (800) VISIT PA.