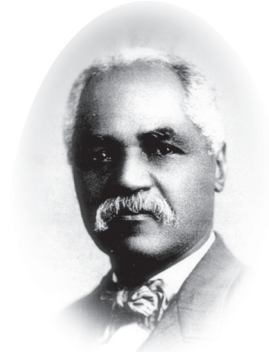


# “A New Home for Liberty - Human Rights, Slavery, and the Creation of West Virginia”



## **J.R. Clifford (1848 - 1933)**

John Robert Clifford was West Virginia's first African-American attorney, a newspaper publisher, editor and writer, a schoolteacher and principal, a civil rights pioneer, a founding member of the Niagara Movement (forerunner to the NAACP), a Civil War veteran, and a graduate of Storer College.



## **Gordon Battelle (1814 - 1862)**

Gordon Battelle was a preacher and a framer of West Virginia's constitution. He became the principal of the academy at Clarksburg, Virginia, an ordained deacon and elder of the Methodist church. As an ardent abolitionist he was greatly influential in the Statehood process. He was a chaplain of the 1st Virginia regiment.

“But let all the West, on due consideration, conclude that slavery is a pernicious institution, and must be gradually removed; then, united in our views on all the great interests of our West Virginia, we shall meet the approaching crisis with inflexible resolution; and West Virginia can and must succeed in her approaching struggle for her rights and her prosperity.”

-**The Ruffner Pamphlet (1847)**

“We won our laurels on the bloody battlefields and saved the union along with hammering the shackles off our heels to the number of four million, and with folded arms and calm silence, they have allowed us to be disfranchised, lynched and burnt at the stake.”

-**J.R. Clifford (1916)**

“Slavery was a monstrosity - at once a crime and blunder. The shadow of it fell with the baleful umbrage on the minds of men throughout the republic... Now men are able to see with clear eyes and unconstrained minds, in the light of truth which they are no longer afraid of, what cowards and slaves they themselves used to be.”

-**Granville Hall (1901)**

“Heaven forbid that a desperate faction of slaveholding criminals should succeed in their infamous endeavors to quench the spirit of liberty, which our forefathers infused into those two sacred charters of our political faith, the Declaration of Independence, and the Constitution of the United States.”

-**H. Helper, The Impending Crisis (1857)**



## **Granville Hall (1837 - 1934)**

Granville Hall was the editor of the Wheeling Intelligencer, West Virginia's second secretary of state, recorded the proceedings and debates of the Wheeling and West Virginia's Constitutional Conventions and authored a number of influential books on West Virginia.



## **Carter G. Woodson (1875 - 1950)**

Carter G. Woodson is the “founder of Black History”. His father was a former slave who moved to West Virginia so that his children could get an education. Woodson worked in West Virginia coal mines and went on to earn a PhD in history at Harvard, where he wrote his thesis on the creation of West Virginia. He began his academic career in what is now West Virginia State University.

One hundred and fifty years ago, brave Mountaineers, black and white, slave and free, risked their lives and fortunes to create a new home for liberty in the United States - the State of West Virginia. Working without a script, West Virginia's founders carved out a new political space for their descendants. "A New Home for Liberty" illuminates and explains the real motivations of the leaders and ordinary citizens who "seized the time" and will show what Statehood meant for ordinary people then and now. This program tells the dramatic and exciting story of how famous state-makers and ordinary citizens grappled with the tough issues of human rights and slavery as the Civil War raged around them - and how these heroes added the West Virginia star to "Old Glory!"

Produced with funding from:



## The J.R. Clifford Project

For directions and more information:  
501 Elizabeth St. Charleston, WV 25311  
(304) 345 - 7663 [admin@jrclifford.org](mailto:admin@jrclifford.org)  
[www.jrclifford.org](http://www.jrclifford.org)

Free admission and parking.  
Reception after the performance.

### Honorary Chair

*West Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals  
Senior Justice  
The Honorable Larry V. Starcher*

### Project Directors

*Thomas Rodd, Esq.  
Katherine Dooley, Esq.*

Since 2004, the J.R. Clifford Project has celebrated West Virginia's rich civil rights heritage. To commemorate the Sesquicentennial (150th anniversary) of West Virginia's Statehood, the J.R. Clifford Project is partnering with educators, churches, and community groups to present programs that explore how issues of race and justice helped form West Virginia. These programs celebrate the human courage and spirit that founded



## "A New Home for Liberty"

*Human Rights, Slavery,  
and the Creation of West Virginia*  
A Dramatic Living History Program

**Wednesday April 6th, 2011  
7:30PM**

**Erickson Alumni Center  
West Virginia University  
Morgantown, WV**

Help celebrate West Virginia's 150th birthday!  
Enjoy vivid and dramatic scenes from West Virginia's creation! Commentary by distinguished historians! Great music! A talented community cast! Family-friendly and suitable for all ages!

**"The Creation of West Virginia -  
Economics and Entrepreneurs."  
Wednesday, April 6th, 2011  
12:00PM - 3:00PM**

**West Virginia University College of Law**

A lecture by the esteemed historian John Alexander Williams followed by a panel discussion - includes a break for food/reception. A chance to hear from some great West Virginia scholars! Free admission.

The J.R. Clifford Project is a program of Friends of Blackwater Canyon Inc. a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

Sponsored by the J.R. Clifford Project & West Virginia University College of Law