

For Immediate Release

Contact:

Nell R. Clay, Board President

217/391-6323

siaahf@yahoo.com

**Springfield & Central Illinois African American History Museum
New Philadelphia, Illinois: Book Launch**

Springfield, Illinois, June 29, 2018 - The Springfield & Central Illinois African American History Museum (AAHM) will host the book launching of **New Philadelphia by Gerald A McWorter & Kate Williams –McWorter** on Thursday, July 26, 2018 at 5:30pm. New Philadelphia, Illinois, was an abolitionist town just 20 miles from slavery, inhabited for more than 100 years. Town founder Frank McWorter bought a total of 16 family members out of slavery, starting with his pregnant wife. Senator Barack Obama said, “New Philadelphia is a site of national importance as the first town known to be founded and platted by African Americans.” Join the museum as we welcome Gerald A. McWorter and Kate Williams-McWorter as they share their family’s story and the task of writing about American history.

***New Philadelphia* by Gerald A. McWorter and Kate Williams- McWorter** tells about the Central Illinois abolitionist village founded in 1836 by Frank McWorter, who also freed his wife and 15 other relatives from slavery. The book covers 200 years of history, because New Philadelphia has had a long life up through local history activism today. The book also includes more than 200 photos drawn from descendant family collections, and some of these will be discussed. The Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture and National Museum of American History each include the town in their exhibits. Frank McWorter is an important figure alongside Abraham Lincoln, and this book explains how African Americans as well as European Americans worked to end slavery and construct freedom in Illinois.

Gerald A. McWorter (Abdul Alkaliment) is a great-great-grandson of Frank McWorter and professor emeritus at the University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign.

Kate Williams-McWorter is associate professor at the University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign.

Praise for *New Philadelphia*:

I learned a great deal from this wonderful book.—Carol McCartney, local history writer, Pittsfield, IL

Frank and Lucy McWorter were remarkable. Their story of dedication to freedom for their family and others is for all of us and this book tells it so everyone can get it.—Philip Bradshaw, local history activist and pork producer, Griggsville, IL

A terrific book and lasting commemoration!—Professor Christopher C. Fennell (archaeology), University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign.

Reception and book signing to follow.

For more information visit our website at www.spiaahm.org or call the museum at 217/391-6323.

About AAHM: The Springfield & Central Illinois African American History Museum exhibits, identifies, collects, catalogs, restores, houses and maintains documents and artifacts relating to and chronicling the history and legacy of African Americans in Central Illinois. The Museum provides research opportunities, educational programming and interpretive services to historians, educators, students and others interested in the lives and legacies of African Americans in Central Illinois while enhancing their overall knowledge about African American people.