FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE

MEDIA CONTACT:
• Laura Barry, 202-670-7684, lbarry@dchistory.org

43rd ANNUAL CONFERENCE ON D.C. HISTORY TACKLES HOT-BUTTON ISSUES
November 3-6, 2016

Opening Letitia Woods Brown Memorial Lecture: Nov. 3, 7 pm, National Archives.
Conference continues: Nov. 4-6, Walter E. Washington Convention Center, 801 Mount Vernon Pl. NW.

Georgetown University’s past as a slave-holding institution drew public attention this year when the university released a report on how hundreds of enslaved people were sold by the school’s administrators in the early 1800s to pay down its debts. The responsibility today of a university to address its past is the subject of Professor Adam Rothman’s “Facing Slavery’s Legacy at Georgetown University.” The professor of history, known for his award-winning book, Beyond Freedom’s Reach: A Kidnapping in the Twilight of Slavery, delivers the Letitia Woods Brown Memorial Lecture on Thursday evening, November 3, at 7 pm. Rothman is a member of Georgetown’s Working Group on Slavery, Memory, and Reconciliation. The lecture is free and open to the public; reservations are required. To register for the lecture, go to: http://bit.ly/2eIQl0F

The Letitia Woods Brown Lecture opens the 43rd Annual Conference on D.C. History, where audiences can look forward to fascinating insights and the latest provocative research on all things Washington.

Presenters and audience members mix it up in a stimulating and entertaining series of discussions, book talks, films, and lectures. Anyone with an interest in the rich history of the District is cordially invited to explore the city’s
• Evolving culture and everyday life
• Immigrant communities and their impact
• Local politics and social movements
• Neighborhood history
• Archaeological finds
• and much more

Presenters are professional scholars, graduate students, filmmakers, writers, and eyewitnesses. Details are found at dchistory.org/programs/annual-conference.

The curtain rises Thursday evening, November 3, 7 pm, with Adam Rothman’s lecture at the National Archives’ William G. McGowan Auditorium (Constitution Avenue entrance, between Seventh and Ninth Streets, NW). Pre-registration is required for this special free public lecture at: http://bit.ly/2eBdLFa. Registrants must arrive close to 6:15 pm for security screening at the door.
The conference sessions begin on **Friday morning, November 4**, and continue through Saturday evening. Check-in and registration opens at 9 am each day. All panels take place at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center, **801 Mount Vernon Place NW. This is a new venue.**

The conference offers **17 panels**. Plenary sessions examine the untapped treasures of local archival collections (Friday morning) and African American Masonic history (Saturday morning). The latter session is presented in memory of historian and Howard University archivist Donna M. Wells. **Friday morning, November 4 at 9:15am** will also feature a walking tour “Race, Space, and the Power of Place on Mount Vernon Square.”

The **History Network**, a marketplace of D.C.-history-related ideas, organizations, publishers, and projects, takes place Friday, from 12 noon to 1:30 pm.

The documentary **Southeast 67** screens on **Friday, November 4, at 6:30 pm**. The award-winning film recounts the impact of an ambitious D.C. educational program of the 1980s. A discussion follows. The screening is included in the conference registration; film-only admissions are also available.

On **Saturday** authors of new history books will present short talks in a literary version of speed dating.

**Sunday** brings a choice of intriguing walking and bus tours: Ivy City by foot, and a coach tour of murals, both classic and new.

**See dchistory.org/programs/annual-conference for all details.**

**Registration Is Now Open**

All Conference Sessions and Film: $25 for the conference ($15 for seniors and students)

Film Screening only: $10.

Walking Tours: $30.

Letitia Woods Brown Lecture at National Archives: Free

For conference registration go to: http://bit.ly/2eIQl0F

The 43rd Annual Conference on D.C. History is hosted by the Historical Society of Washington, D.C. with the support of Events DC. It is co-sponsored by the Association of Oldest Inhabitants of D.C.; DC Historic Preservation Office, Office of Planning; George Washington University Libraries; the Historical Society of Washington, D.C.; Humanities DC; and Special Collections, DC Public Library.

**About the Historical Society of Washington, D.C.**

The Historical Society is a community-supported educational and research organization that collects, interprets, and shares the history of our nation's capital. Founded in 1894, the Historical Society serves a diverse audience through its collections, public programs, exhibitions, and publications. The Historical Society’s galleries and research library are located in the historic Carnegie Library at Mt. Vernon Square, 801 K Street NW, and are open Tuesday through Friday, 10 am-4 pm.

*The Carnegie Library is currently closed for environmental remediation; the Historical Society continues its daily operations. For more information contact info@dchistory.org*

###