

# Asheville: From Slavery to Freedom

## Remembering April 26, 1865

By Wednesday, April 26, 1865, Major General Alvan Gillem, a southern born Union officer from West Point, began to lead the 2,700 Union troops out of Asheville followed by 100's of African Americans leaving with the protection of the troops as a "liberating army". The troops had come up from Henderson County on April 23 leaving by way of Main Street, or what we now call Biltmore Avenue.

Reading the diary of Kathryn Polk Gale we learn:

*"The following day the troops began to file by; they passed just in front of our lawn: you, with the rest of the children accompanied by your nurses, went to a point where you could have a view of them in passing...It took a long while for these troops to pass. After they had all gone, it was discovered that your Aunt Emily's two nurse, with several other Negroes in the neighborhood, had joined forces and gone off with the Yankees."*

A letter from Mary Taylor Brown to John Evans Brown adds:

*"All of Mrs. J. W. Patton's left her and went off with the Yankees, not a single one of all she had remained to do a thing in the house or in the kitchen. They even took her beautiful carriage and, crowding into it, drove off in full possession."*

150 years later, with music and scholarship, we will gather to imagine the hopes and dreams of those that walked out of Asheville, as well as those who stayed - the Unionists and Confederates; whites and blacks; freed and newly freed.

Let us know if you are coming and spread the word!

**[RSVP here](#)**

Date My City and the UNC Asheville Center for Diversity

*When?*

**Sunday,  
April 26, 2015  
5:00 - 6:30**

*Where?*

**Former site of  
Buncombe  
County  
Courthouse/  
Pack Square**

*Stay Connected*



## Education

# People are asking "Is Asheville the only place that is addressing the issue of monuments to the Confederacy?"

The answer is "No". Asheville is part of communities all across the country who are looking anew at these monuments which are often located in seats of power all across the South. Here are a few of the various ways legislatures, universities, and towns are addressing the issues of Confederate monuments 150 years after the people and events they commemorate have passed.

### Black Caucus for State Legislatures

The Black Caucus for State Legislatures examines various efforts to remove, relocate, and/or rename monuments and buildings related to proponents of slave labor - along with the philosophical, political, and constitutional issues that arise.

### UNC Chapel Hill and Yale University

As an act of transparency, Brown University examines the historical record and the legacy of slavery and Jim Crow through monuments (Silent Sam) and multiple buildings and streets.

### UNC Chapel Hill

Continued work by faculty and students at UNC engage the Board of Trustees and the community to more fully understand the legacy of slavery at Chapel Hill.

### University of Mississippi

The University of Mississippi confronts Confederate symbols

with historical analysis and discontinued used of fight song and confederate flag.

### **Clemson University**

Students at Clemson University lead an effort to rename Tillman Hall named for founder and an avowed racist.

### **Raleigh, NC**

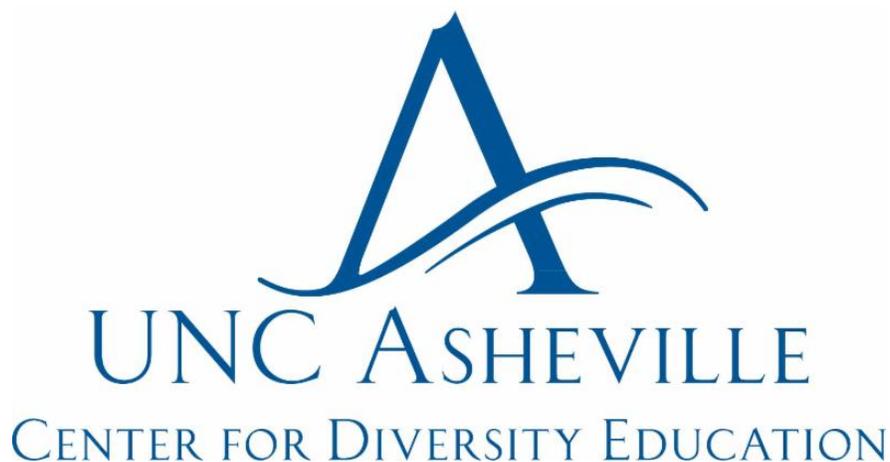
Confederate Monument on capitol grounds draws criticism.

### **New Orleans, LA**

Confederate monuments, including those of Jefferson Davis and Robert E. Lee, are signed with the names of murdered young African American men including Trayvon Martin and Wendall Allen.

### **Richmond, VA**

A discussion that perhaps Confederate Monuments are best placed in museums where they can be interpreted.



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