

# SEEK MUSEUM

STRUGGLES *for* EMANCIPATION  
*and* EQUALITY *in* KENTUCKY

## EDUCATION CATALOG

Learning Resources for Teachers & Students

FALL 2023

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# THE SEEK MUSEUM



The 1817 townhouse and work building built for Major Richard Bibb



4 historic buildings in the Bottom built between 1810 and 1946

The **SEEK MUSEUM** tells the unique and important history of slavery in Kentucky, along with the related history of the struggles for freedom, equality and justice. This is told in 6 historic buildings located in two adjoining National Register Districts. Educational exhibits and lesson plans have been developed to encourage our visitors to seek knowledge, truth and understanding of these important issues.

## EXHIBITS AT THE SEEK MUSEUM

- Enslavement in Kentucky; the Colonization Movement; & Emancipation at *The Bibb House*
- Struggles for Civil Rights; Barriers to Equality-Segregation and Mob Violence; & Cultural Heritage in *The Bottom*

# EDUCATIONAL TOURS

Tours of either or both of the Museum campuses are available by appointment, and fees are reduced for curriculum-based school tours for groups of 10 or more. Tours can be scheduled by contacting our Education Coordinator at [educator@seekmuseum.org](mailto:educator@seekmuseum.org) or by using the scheduling link on our website at [www.seekmuseum.org](http://www.seekmuseum.org).

The **SEEK MUSEUM at THE BIBB HOUSE** addresses Richard Bibb's enslavement of dozens of people for 70 years along with his emancipation of 98 people between 1832 and 1839.



1817 Palladian style townhouse of Major Bibb



Stamp of the sailing ship "Ajax" that transported Bibb's slaves



Images of 3 of the people who were freed by Bibb

The **SEEK MUSEUM in the BOTTOM** addresses the strength and resilience of the people who developed this neighborhood after the Civil War and who worked for equal rights in the face of legalized segregation and racial intimidation and violence.



Bronze statue of civil rights pioneer, Alice Allison Dunnigan



1880 house – site of "By Parties Unknown" exhibit



1810 house – site of cultural heritage exhibit

# CURRICULUM AND TEACHING TOOLS



SEEK Museum currently offers three professionally developed lesson plans for students and educators

~ Alice Dunnigan & Civil Rights Lesson Plan ~

~ Bibb House & "Invented Before You Were Born" Lesson Plan ~

~ "By Parties Unknown" Lesson Plan ~

The STATE STANDARDS that these lesson plans relate to include the following Kentucky standards for Social Studies (K-12)

**C.6.1a, C.7.1a, C.8.1a, C.9-10.1a, C.11-12.1a**

*Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization and style are appropriate to task, purpose and audience.*

**C.6.1g, C.7.1g, C.8.1g, C.9-10.1g, C.11-12.1g**

*Develop and strengthen writing by planning, revising, editing, rewriting or trying a new approach, focusing on addressing what is most significant for a specific purpose or audience.*

**RI.6.1, RI.7.1, RI.8.1, RI.9-10.1, RI.11-12.1**

*Cite relevant and thorough textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says.*

**RI.6.7, RI.7.7, RI.8.7, RI.9-10.7, RI.11-12.7**

*Analyze various accounts of a subject presented in different print and non-print formats.*

**RI.6.9, RI.7.9, RI.8.9, RI.9-10.9, RI.11-12.9**

*Analyze documents of historical significance, including how they address related themes.*

**HS.UK.KH.1**

*Examine how Kentuckians influence and are influenced by major national developments in U.S. history from 1877-present.*

**SEEK  
MUSEUM**

STRUGGLES for EMANCIPATION  
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# ALICE ALLISON DUNNIGAN LESSON PLAN



Alice Allison Dunnigan was born in Russellville, Ky in 1906, and she became actively involved in the civil rights movement in the 1930's. She moved to Washington DC in 1942, and she became the first African-American woman authorized to attend the White House, Congressional and Supreme Court press conferences. Fighting the twin strikes of racism and sexism, she was actively involved in the civil rights movement and the struggle for equality until her death in 1983. Her autobiography, *A Black Woman's Experience: From the School House to the White House*, and her oral interviews are part of our Lesson Plan.

## **ALICE ALLISON DUNNIGAN**

*"If I can so live to inspire others to strive to achieve, I will not have lived my life in vain."*



### **Description of Lesson Plan**

In this lesson students will explore the life and legacy of Alice Allison Dunnigan, a groundbreaking and award-winning journalist who through hard work, determination and a refusal to accept the racist and sexist policies that often closed the doors of opportunity to her, became the first African-American journalist to be accredited to cover the White House, the first African-American woman to travel with the President of the United States, the first African-American woman to report from the US Capitol press gallery, and so much more.

Students will get the opportunity to learn the basics of biographical reporting and will use these skills to create a biographical sketch of Dunnigan from a selection of audio and video clips about her life as excerpts from her autobiography and from newspaper stories written by her and from their own research.

Finally, students will be asked to choose a subject that serves as an inspiration in their own community, school or to them personally. They will conduct an interview with this individual and create a short video newscast presenting a profile of their very own "Local Inspiration".

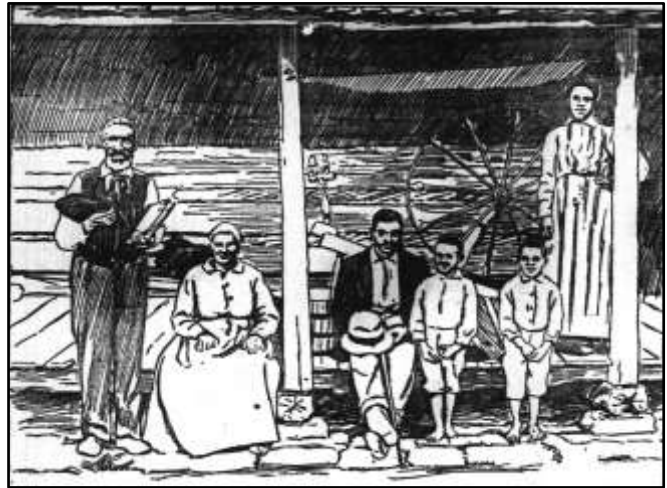
This is the introduction to the Lesson Plan that focuses on the life and achievements of Alice Dunnigan. The full Lesson Plan can be accessed at our website, [seekmuseum.org](http://seekmuseum.org), in the Educator tab.

# BIBB HOUSE LESSON PLAN

## SLAVERY and EMANCIPATION



Major Richard Bibb



Arnold family at Bibbtown 1897

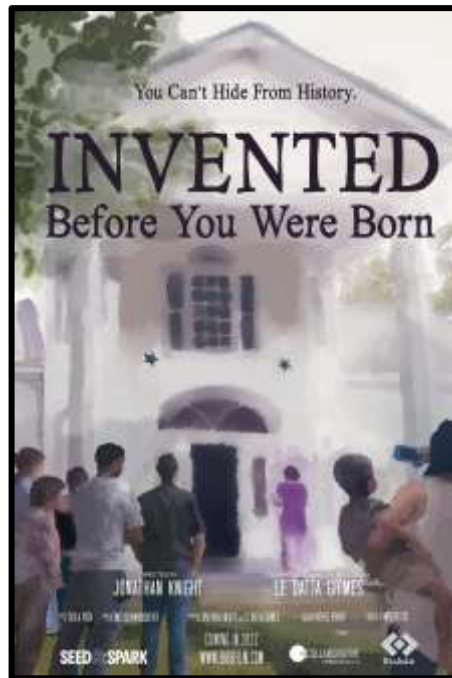
Major Richard Bibb inherited enslaved people in 1769 when his father died, and the family folklore is that he realized slavery was wrong while he was serving as a chaplain in the Revolutionary War. Yet he did not free any of these people until 1832 when he sent 31 of the people he enslaved to Liberia as part of the colonization movement. When Bibb died in 1839, he freed the 65 people that were enslaved by him at that time.

The people that were freed at his death initially settled on farms that he gave them in 2 areas in northern Logan County that became known as Upper and Lower Bibbtown. The tour includes their stories of living in a world where slavery was legal, their migrations to the Bottom in Russellville and to other places and states, the lives of their descendants and the eventual reunion of the descendants of the enslaved and the enslaver.



# BIBB HOUSE LESSON PLAN

## *INVENTED BEFORE YOU WERE BORN*



251 years after Richard Bibb had inherited enslaved people, a reunion was held for his descendants and for the descendants of the people that he had enslaved . This reunion, and the interactions among the descendants, are part of the documentary film, *Invented Before You Were Born*. An extensive Study Guide has been developed by the producers of the film and is available for use with educational tours of the museum.

This history is displayed in Major Bibb's 1817 Townhouse in Russellville, and it is based primarily on Bibb family documents that had been archived by his family and other original documents uncovered by the Museum. Topics include slavery, the colonization movement, emancipation and the complications for the freed people who were living in a world of legalized slavery.

This is an introduction to the Lesson Plan that focuses on slavery and emancipation at the Bibb House. The full plan can be accessed at our website, [www.seekmuseum.org](http://www.seekmuseum.org) by clicking on the "Educator" tab.

# BY PARTIES UNKNOWN

## LESSON PLAN



*By Parties Unknown*, a PBS documentary, explores the story of the violent lynchings of four black men in Russellville, Kentucky in 1908. The events and the cultural climate surrounding the lynchings are highlighted through the perspective of a community scholar who seeks to chronicle and share the story for present and future generations. Commentary and historical analysis is provided in the film by three professors of African-American history.



Michael Morrow, SEEK Museum Director

# BY PARTIES UNKNOWN

## Lesson Summary

*By Parties Unknown* is a documentary that unravels the events surrounding the violent lynching of four Black men in Russellville, Kentucky, in 1908. In this lesson, students will view clips from the film and answer the questions that are assigned to those individual clips.

These clips are intended to guide students through the events leading up to, and following, the lynching of John Boyer, Joe Riley, John Jones and Virgil Jones, as well as the cultural atmosphere that embraced the spectacle of mob violence.

The questions that accompany the clips are intended to create a discussion as the class investigates these murders. Students will follow up this investigation by completing one of three extension projects that include materials about Ida B. Wells, Billie Holliday and the Equal Justice Initiative.

## Learning Objectives

- Identify the impact of racism and violence in the United States between 1865 and the 1950s.
- Conduct their own exploration of online resources to expand their understanding of how the legacy of racist violence impacts our world.
- Explore how individuals have resisted oppression and used their efforts and creativity to speak out against racism and violence.

This is the introduction to the Lesson Plan about the history and effects of racial violence. The full Lesson Plan can be accessed at our website, [seekmuseum.org](http://seekmuseum.org), in the "Educator" tab.

# EXPLANATION OF EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS at the SEEK MUSEUM

The SEEK Museum recognizes that educational programming related to our country's history related to race needs to be carefully and thoughtfully developed and presented.

Our lesson plans have been created based on the following:

The exhibits are composed of primary materials, such as photographs, documents, maps and tangible items. No opinions or conclusions are included in any of the exhibits.

The topics in the museum are based on local history so that the visitors will be able to realize the relevance of these local events and individuals to our nation's history.

Local historic buildings that have relevance to this history have been restored, and the exhibits have been placed in buildings that are connected to these historical narratives.

Visitors are told at the beginning that they should not feel guilty or ashamed for any reason because none of them have participated in any of the historical events that are described in the tours and exhibits.

Our Lesson Plans have been developed by university professors and education specialists with reviews by other educational personnel.

We believe that it is very important for students to learn about African American history, and our programs offer a variety of learning opportunities. Our goal is that each and every visitor to the museum will SEEK Knowledge, Truth and Understanding.



# Seek FREEDOM

The SEEK Museum has been developed over the last 25 years under the leadership of Michael Morrow, the recipient of the "2023 Lifetime Achievement Award for Contributions to Kentucky History" from the Kentucky Historical Society. The museum's exhibits are based on original artifacts that are not on display at any other locations, and the educational programs have been created to help students understand important topics by learning about our region's history related to slavery and the struggles for freedom, equality and justice.



## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

### FILMS & PUBLICATIONS

[Bibb House Museum Reunion](#)  
[SEEK Museum | Unforgettable | A Kentucky Original Series](#)

[Russellville Seek Museum begins weeklong Emancipation Celebration](#)

[SEEK Museum tells the story of African Americans in Logan County](#)

[By Parties Unknown](#) *A community scholar seeks to tell the story of four lynchings in 1908*  
[Bibb House Reunion | Kentucky Life](#)

To schedule a tour or get information about our educational opportunities, please contact our Education Coordinator at [educator@seekmuseum.org](mailto:educator@seekmuseum.org) or call 904 547-9331.