Finding Frank Moore:
How Recent Research Changed Our Understanding of the Elaine Massacre

A lecture by Dr. Brian Mitchell, Director of Research and Interpretation at the Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum
In 1923, the “Elaine Twelve,” a group of sharecroppers who survived the famed Elaine Massacre, were defendants in the U.S. Supreme Court rulings Moore v. Dempsey and Ware v. Dempsey. Despite the Supreme Court’s determination that the men had been denied “due process,” the governor refused to overturn their sentences. Their death sentences were eventually commuted later that year, and The Twelve were released from prison in 1925. Fearing that they would be lynched if they remained in Arkansas, most fled north, where they found sanctuary and reinvented themselves in Chicago, St. Louis, East St. Louis, Springfield, and Topeka.

Join historian Brian Mitchell to learn how the lives of The Twelve have challenged researchers to critically examine the roles that debt peonage, racialized violence, and fear played in the Great Migration and to find ways to commemorate their struggles.

Come early for a happy hour where you can learn more about the Missouri Historical Society’s African American History Initiative. Food and drinks will be available for purchase.

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Thursday March 16, 2023
Happy Hour 5:30pm | MacDermott Grand Hall
Lecture 6:30pm | Lee Auditorium
Missouri History Museum
Lindell and DeBaliviere in Forest Park

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BRIAN MITCHELL, Ph.D., is a historian and the Director of Research and Interpretation at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum. He is the co-author of Blood in Their Eyes: The Elaine Massacre of 1919 and the author of the award-winning graphic novel Monumental: Oscar Dunn and His Radical Fight in Reconstruction Louisiana.

JAMES NEAL PRIMM LECTURE IN HISTORY
This annual speaker series brings to St. Louis distinguished historians to share their current research through public lectures, seminars, and informal meetings. It is intended to honor James Neal Primm, Curators’ Professor Emeritus of the University of Missouri–St. Louis.