



2023 JAMES NEAL PRIMM LECTURE IN HISTORY

# 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

**UMSL** | University of Missouri–St. Louis

**MISSOURI HISTORY MUSEUM**  
MISSOURI HISTORICAL SOCIETY



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

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

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.

Image on the reverse from the Butler Center for Arkansas Studies, Bobby L. Roberts Library of Arkansas History and Art, Central Arkansas Library System



**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.

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