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Attached: Photograph of Dr. Judith King-Calnek

Symposium Focuses on J.M. Langston Family Roots and Views on African-American Education

A two-part symposium, hosted by the John Mercer Langston Institute and the Oberlin Heritage Center, will focus on the life and work of John Mercer Langston (1829-1897), a free person of color who served as an abolitionist, orator, diplomat and promoter of African-American education. Dr. Judith E. King-Calnek, an educational anthropologist and instructor at the United Nations International School and herself a John Mercer Langston relative will be the featured speaker at two free presentations offered to the public on Tuesday and Wednesday, March 29 and 30 in Oberlin.

On Tuesday, at 7:15 p.m. in the Heiser Auditorium at Kendal at Oberlin, King-Calnek will discuss **John Mercer Langston and the Shaping of African American Education in the Nineteenth Century**. The illustrated program focuses on Langston's work in Ohio and later in Virginia and the District of Columbia as he addressed the educational needs of African Americans from his positions as school teacher, educational organizer, university administrator and congressman.

The following evening at 7 p.m., King-Calnek will appear at the Oberlin Public Library's Community Room to present **The Langston-Quarles Family: An Untold American Story**. This talk focuses on the tri-racial roots of John Mercer Langston and his brothers Charles and Gideon. It considers the background of their mother, Lucy Jane Langston, who was the daughter of a Pamunkey (Powhatan) mother and an African American father, as well as their father, Ralph Quarles, a Revolutionary War Captain. While the three Langston young men moved to Ohio shortly after their parents' deaths, their sister and her family remained in Virginia. What were their lives like before Oberlin? How different were their lives in Ohio compared to their sister who continued to live in antebellum Virginia? Was theirs a unique story or just an untold chapter of American history?

Dr. Judith E. King-Calnek teaches anthropology, theory of knowledge and history at the United Nations International School, which serves families of the United Nations, as well as others seeking an international education for their children. Her publications have focused on education and citizenship in various contexts. King-Calnek's most recent publications on free people of color in 19th century Virginia reflect her continued interest in the intersection of race/color and citizenship in socially stratified societies. King-Calnek holds a Ph.D. in comparative education and anthropology from Teachers College Columbia University. She traces her family genealogy to that of John Mercer Langston.

The John Mercer Langston Institute (JMLI), established as an educational organization by Olivia H. Cousins, Ph.D., seeks to promote an increased understanding of the life, work, times, and associates of John Mercer Langston. The JMLI emphasizes the ongoing relevance of the issues of John Mercer Langston, including his contributions to the abolitionist movement, his development of educational and leadership opportunities for

African Americans and women, his influence on U.S. Education and Law, and his commitment to the pursuance of freedom for all.

The Oberlin Heritage Center is accredited by the American Association of Museums and is widely recognized as a model small museum, historical society and historic preservation organization. It offers guided tours, history walks, educational programs for all ages, children's summer camps, and special events both at its complex of historic sites and throughout the community, often in collaboration with other organizations.

For more information about the John Mercer Langston Symposium, please visit the Oberlin Heritage Center website at www.oberlinheritage.org or call (440) 774-1700.

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