

BELMONT MANSION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Myers Brown

Email: Myers.Brown@belmont.edu

Phone: (615) 460-5459

**AUTHOR JILL NEWMARK TO PRESENT AT BELMONT MANSION ON
WITHOUT CONCEALMENT, WITHOUT COMPROMISE:
THE COURAGEOUS LIVES OF BLACK CIVIL WAR SURGEONS**

Sunday, February 15, 2026, Jill L. Newmark will share the story of the fourteen Black surgeons who served in the Union Army during the Civil War. Ms. Newmark's outstanding research uncovered these stories which were little known to the greater public for more than 150 years.

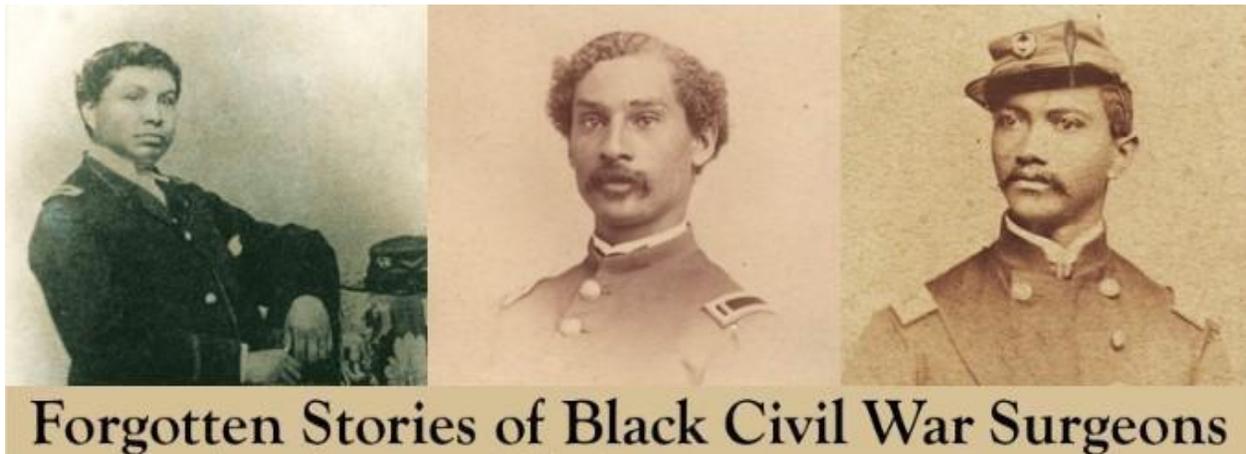


Image: Above are three of the fourteen Black Civil War surgeons featured in Jill Newmark's book:
(Left to right) William P. Powell, Jr., Anderson R. Abbott, and Alexander T. Augusta

Details:

Event: *Forgotten Stories of Black Civil War Surgeons* from Jill L. Newmark's book, *Without Concealment, Without Compromise: The Courageous Lives of Black Civil War Surgeons*

Presented by Jill L. Newmark

Dates: February 15, 2026

Time: 4:30 to 6:30 P.M.

Ticket Price: Free and Open to the Public. Reservations Required.

Ticket Reservations: <https://www.belmontmansion.com/events>

Venue: Belmont Mansion

Address: 1900 Belmont Blvd, Nashville, TN 37212

GPS: Belmont Mansion Visitor Parking

The Civil War saw the first wide-spread enlistment of Black soldiers in the U.S. Army, however the amazing story of the fourteen Black Civil War surgeons has been relatively unknown until recently. Thankfully, Jill Newmark is now bringing their story to light with her book, *Without Concealment, Without Compromise: The Courageous Lives of Black Civil War Surgeons*. On Sunday, February 15, 2026, Newmark will discuss how these men managed to get medical degrees and army commissions in an era of racial bias and bigotry that largely prohibited both.

Nashvillian John Rapier, Jr., was one of those surgeons. Born free in Alabama, he was raised in Nashville by his grandmother Sally Thomas, an enslaved woman who ran her own laundry and boarding house. His father, John Rapier, Sr., was a successful barber in Alabama who in the 1840s sent his sons to live with their grandmother and receive an education which he funded. The Black population of Nashville had an established commitment to education well before the Civil War. This educational foundation gave rise to a substantial Black middle-class community and paved the way for Rapier's future medical education.

Myers Brown, Executive Director of Belmont Mansion — "Belmont Mansion is honored to host Jill L. Newmark. Her amazing research brings to light the individual efforts of fourteen Black men who through their courage, tenacity and intelligence trained as medical doctors in an era that largely restricted Black education. That accomplishment alone is significant but to have gained officer commissions in the U.S. Army at that time is truly noteworthy."

About Jill L. Newmark – Ms. Newmark is an independent historian and former Curator and Exhibition Specialist at the National Library of Medicine, National Institutes of Health. She has curated numerous exhibitions and written several articles on African American medical personnel who served during the American Civil War. This is the first time she has lectured in Nashville. Do not miss this opportunity to learn more about this inspirational story of Black Civil War surgeons.

About Without Concealment, Without Compromise – "Far from a purely inspirational narrative, Jill L. Newmark aptly demonstrates the social, political, cultural, and personal struggles and indeed artistry of a group of pioneering Black soldier-surgeons, medical professionals, humanitarians, politicians, and entrepreneurs whose collective recognition is long overdue." Christopher M. Tinson, author of "Radical Intellect: Liberator Magazine and Black America in the 1960s."



The Tennessee Civil War National Heritage Area is supporting the event with a grant.

###

For more information or to schedule an interview with Jill Newmark please contact Myers Brown at (615) 460-5459 or myers.brown@belmont.edu.