

*The Plainville Historical Society Presents...*

## **Jordan Freeman: The Fight to Set a People Free**

The Plainville Historical Society will present Kevin Johnson as Jordan Freeman, an African-American servant of John Ledyard and Colonel William Ledyard in the Revolutionary War at the Plainville Public Library on Thursday November 17<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM.

To register for the November 17<sup>th</sup> program, please email [plvhistorical@gmail.com](mailto:plvhistorical@gmail.com) with name, phone number, email address, and number of persons coming. Advance registration is required. Confirmation will be sent to you by email.

Jordan Freeman was an actual person, a native of Old Lyme. Although he did not enlist himself, he witnessed key events of the war for independence while with Col. Ledyard. Historians estimate the number of black soldiers in this war to have been about 5,000 men, serving in militias, seagoing services, and support activities, including nearly 500 from Connecticut. Some enlisted because they felt it was their duty; others because they were offered their freedom in return for satisfactory completion of a set period of service. The presentation is based on extensive research in the collections of the Connecticut State Library and the Museum of Connecticut History at 231 Capitol Ave, opposite the State Capitol in Hartford.

Kevin Johnson is an employee of the State Library's History and Genealogy Unit and he has been portraying Jordan Freeman for about 15 years. In addition to portraying Jordan Freeman, he has been presenting as Pvt. William Webb, a soldier in the Civil War, for 20 years and has given more than 600 presentations.

The Connecticut State Library provides high quality library and information services to state government and the citizens of Connecticut. It also preserves and makes accessible the records of Connecticut's history and heritage. The focus of the Museum and its collections is Connecticut's government, military and industrial history. Permanent and changing exhibits trace the growth of the State and its role in the development of the nation from the Colonial era to the present. Additional information about the State Library and the Museum of Connecticut History can be found on its Web page at <http://www.ctstatelibrary.org>

Please note that the location is the Plainville Public Library at 56 East Main Street. Our last program with Kevin Johnson was so popular that we had to turn people away. The Library Auditorium provides more seating for people to experience history coming alive!