

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate Release
AUGUST 22, 2022

CONTACT:
PAUL STEWART
P_stewart79@yahoo.com
Phone: 518-596-0260

Dr. Thomas Elkins Brought to Life

Adult Community Members join archaeological dig at Dr. Thomas Elkins Site

Albany, NY -- Underground Railroad Education Center is sponsoring an archaeological dig on a site where once stood the home of Doctor Thomas Elkins, Black medical doctor and Albany resident known for his inventions and for his role in the Underground Railroad.

A half dozen volunteers will be supervised by professional archaeologist Mathew Kirk, Principal of Hartgen Archaeological Associates. Participants will learn and apply archeological best practices in their search for artifacts related to Elkins.

Dr. Thomas Elkins was an African American doctor from Albany who served the Albany community for the better part of the 19th century. He functioned as an apothecary for part of the time but by the mid-1850s he held the title of doctor. Elkins provided medical services to freedom seekers. He was known to be a medical examiner for the recruits for the 54th and 55th Massachusetts infantry regiments. He also served as a doctor for the Albany City Jail. He is also known for holding at least two patents for inventions.

Underground Railroad Education Center acquired the property where Dr. Thomas Elkins once lived. The present dig will explore the site of a water cistern and foundation wall located on the property where Dr. Elkins lived.

Underground Railroad Education Center researches and preserves the local and national history of the Underground Railroad movement, its international connections, and its legacy for today's social justice issues, thereby empowering people of all ages to be agents of change toward an equitable and just society. More information is available at <https://undergroundrailroadhistory.org/event/adult-adventure-in-archaeology-summer-camp/> and by contacting Paul Stewart at 518-596-0260.