

Introduction of Dr. Afua Cooper

Dr. Afua Cooper was born and raised in Jamaica. In 1980, at age 23, she moved to Toronto, Canada to attend school. She earned her Ph.D. in history. Her focus was on slavery and freedom, she researched the abolitionist movement. Her dissertation was on Henry Bibb, a fugitive slave from Oldham County, Kentucky, who eventually fled to Canada. In his adopted home, Bibb made a lasting contribution to Black Freedom.

Dr. Cooper has worked as a professor in several universities teaching history and women's studies and conducting research. She also has a career as a creative writer. She has served as the poet laureate of Halifax, Nova Scotia. Her writing focuses on the historical experience of Black people in Canada, the United States and globally. She founded the Black Canadian Studies Association and co-founded the Dub Poets Collective. She mentors young writers.

She loves to read and write. She is interested in the history of slavery, historical fiction, biographies, and Black literatures. She has an interest in women's maternal health. She sits on the board of the Women's Health Organization International and is a member of the Writers Federation of Nova Scotia.

Dr. Cooper has recorded 2 albums of poetry. Her new book of poetry is called, **"Black Matters: Poetry and Photography in Dialogue"**. It is a collaboration with German artist and professor, Wilfried Raussert.

Using her expertise in the history and story of Henry Bibb, she is currently writing a combined biography of Henry Bibb and Mary Miles Bibb.