



Sample Course

Treasures of the Ramsdell House

This course will introduce students to the dynamic history of the Underground Railroad, the Abolition Movement, and the Civil War in Ceredo, West Virginia and to the rich historical resources held at the Ramsdell house.

The course is made up of five online lessons. Each lesson has a video lecture and an opportunity for engagement. Nothing in the course is graded or has a time limit.

Course Guidelines

- Students are encouraged to do the lessons in order, but you don't have to.
- Students are also encouraged to contribute as much as they want to the opportunities for interaction but should not feel any pressure to participate. Just watching and learning is fine!
- If you do contribute, please always be respectful in discussion posts. Disagreement is encouraged, but personal attacks or name-calling is not acceptable. Please stick to constructive criticism.
- It is always okay to email the instructor with questions, please don't hesitate.

Your Instructor

Dr. Greta Rensenbrink, Professor of History, Marshall University

The best way to reach me is through my email: rensenbrink@marshall.edu (if the message doesn't go through, check the spelling of my name 😊). I encourage students to reach out with questions or feedback.

Phone: 304 696 2955

Course Schedule

Lesson #	Lesson Title	Main Activity	Opportunity for Interaction
Lesson 1	Black History in Huntington and Ceredo in the 19 th Century	Video Lecture, 45 minutes	Post in the Black History discussion forum: What did you learn from this lecture that you didn't know before?
Lesson 2	Introducing the Ramsdells	Video Lecture, 45 minutes	Explore provided links to information about other Black Appalachian historic sites, and post in a discussion forum about something you learned.

Lesson 3	The Ramsdell House	Video tour of the Ramsdell House: 45 minutes	Post in a discussion board: What surprised you most about the history you learned so far in this course?
Lesson 4	The Abolition Movement and the Underground Railroad	Video Exploration 1	Read the five provided letters from the Ramsdell House Collection and post on the discussion board: What is most important to understand from these letters?
Lesson 5	The Civil War	Video Exploration 2	Want to know more? We can help you schedule an in-person visit to the Ramsdell House

Lesson Descriptions

Lecture for lesson 1: Broad Outline

- Black history in Huntington and Ceredo: an overview (15 minutes)
- The Underground Railroad movement in Huntington and Ceredo (15 minutes)
- The Abolition movement in Huntington and Ceredo (15 minutes)

Lecture for lesson 2: Broad Outline

- Who were Z.D. and Almeda Ramsdell? (10 minutes)
- The Ramsdells and the founding of Ceredo (10 minutes)
- The Ramsdells and the Abolition and Underground Railroad movements (15 minutes).
- The history of the house itself (10 minutes)

Video Tour

This lesson will literally follow the Ramsdell House director as she gives a tour of the house, grounds, and collections at the historic site itself.

Video Exploration 1 and 2

In the video explorations, the course instructor will walk students through reading, interpreting, and learning from a series of documents and material history from the Ramsdell House Collection. The first session will focus on the pre-Civil War period. The second session will focus on the Civil War itself. Documents will include letters, and material history will include clothing and household artefacts.