

Watkins to speak on black history at library

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Some of the unique black history of Walker County will be the topic of discussion today when Dr. Richard Watkins speaks at the Huntsville Public Library starting at 10 a.m.

For nearly half a century, the Walker County Genealogical Society has highlighted various community contributions.

"I want to use as an example the book written by Jane Monday, "From Slave to Statesman," Watkins said this week. "So much of our history is not written down, but was passed down orally."

The black community was instrumental to this region going all the way back the Republic of Texas days.

"So many of the trustworthy black men and women during that time were educated because they had to be," said Johnni Jo Dickenson of the Walker County Genealogical Society. "We learn about the way they passed history down and learn about other ways they helped to build Walker County."

The event is free and open to the public.