



NAACP Headquarters, 69 Fifth Avenue, New York, around 1938. Photo: Library of Congress

The Jim Crow system of segregated facilities and state-sanctioned repression was held in place by terror. More than 5000 African Americans were lynched in the United States between 1877 and 1950 – most of them men, and most in the South.

Many scholars and activists remind us that every image of a tormented black body has power in our culture. This presentation, offering about sixty images, some of them quite disturbing, is offered as stark evidence of that history and in memory of those whose murder and torture they represent.

On most occasions, this talk is part of a “Double Take on Lynching,” presented with poet Marcia Cole, who reads her powerful “A Bitter Suite,” which won the 2010 College Language Association Creative Writing Contest first prize in poetry. <http://www.historyworthwhile.com/>

In response to recent events, historian Susan Strasser seeks to serve people grappling with contemporary issues of race and racism. This is the second of a series of illustrated talks, “A White Historian Reads Black History.”