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IN MEDIA/BOOK REVIEW

Mystery, *Titanic*, plus
LJ Talks to Robert Greer
and Random House Audio's
Amanda D'Acerno

Paralibrarian
of the Year
2012

Linda
Dahlquist

Volusia County
Public Library, FL

2011 Image Award Nominee
"Filling the Gap"

Please visit our website
essenceofhistory.com

Director Young is available for guest appearances
407-403-6560

Filling the Gap: Forgotten Chapter of American History. Color. 83 min. Tyrone Young, *Essence of History*. 407-403-6560; info@essenceofhistory.com; www.essenceofhistory.com, 2011. DVD \$89.00 with license.

Director Young's exceptional docudrama chronicles the multitude of contributions to America made by African Americans, from scientist Benjamin Banneker and notable poet Phillis Wheatley to later prominent figures including Harriet Tubman and Frederick Douglass. The film also provides solid information on some lesser-known figures, for example, inventors Benjamin Bradley and Benjamin Montgomery, who, while the slave of Confederate president Jefferson Davis and lacking a formal education, produced a revolutionary propeller for steamboats. Viewers are introduced to Elizabeth Keckley, who supported herself as a seamstress yet forged a close relationship with First Lady Mary Todd Lincoln. *Filling the Gap* proposes an alternative to the current discourse that views African Americans as passive inhabitants by recasting them into positive participants who helped shape the settlement and economic development of the nation and played a prominent role in the Civil War. **VERDICT** Brief, engaging dramatizations combined with pertinent background detail make this program an excellent resource for AP American history classes and anyone with an interest in U.S. social history.—Brian Odom, *Jefferson State Community Coll., Birmingham, AL*