



National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Jefferson National  
Expansion Memorial

11 North 4<sup>th</sup> Street  
St. Louis MO 63102  
[www.nps.gov/jeff](http://www.nps.gov/jeff)

314-655-1600 phone  
314-655-1641 fax

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## Media Advisory

Release date: **Immediate**

**Contact(s):** Carl Schumacher (314) 655-1636  
Rick Ziino (314) 655-1725

### CELEBRATING AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

#### AT THE GATEWAY ARCH AND HISTORIC OLD COURTHOUSE

**WHERE:** Historic Old Courthouse and Museum of Westward Expansion at Jefferson National Expansion Memorial, 11 North Fourth Street and Gateway Arch along St. Louis Riverfront, downtown St. Louis, Missouri.

**WHEN:** Through the month of February 2008-March 1, 2008

**WHAT:** “**The Adventures of Jim Beckwourth: African American Frontiersman**” presented by Gregory Carr. Explore the colorful life of the famous mountain man and buffalo hunter as he blazes new trails and later becomes an Indian Chief.

Friday, **February 1<sup>st</sup>** - 9:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

Saturday, **February 2<sup>nd</sup>** - 10:30 a.m. & 1:00 p.m.

Programs will be at the Museum of Westward Expansion beneath the Gateway Arch.

**Elizabeth Keckley** portrayed by master storyteller and educator Carole Shelton. Share the story of this enslaved St. Louisan and talented seamstress who purchased her own freedom and her son's and later became Mary Todd Lincoln's trusted friend and dressmaker.

Friday, **February 8<sup>th</sup>** - 9:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

Saturday, **February 9<sup>th</sup>** - 10:30 a.m. & 1:00 p.m.

Programs will be at the Historic Old Courthouse in the rotunda.

**Company A – 10<sup>th</sup> Memorial Cavalry Buffalo Soldiers** presented by volunteer historic re-enactors from Fort Concho Historic Site and Museum in San Angelo, Texas. Students and visitors will learn the vital role the Buffalo Soldiers played in our history.

Thursday & Friday, **February 14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup>** - 9:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m., & 11:30 a.m.

Saturday, **February 16<sup>th</sup>** - 10:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m., 1:00 p.m. & 2:00 p.m.

Programs will be at the Museum of Westward Expansion beneath the Gateway Arch.

“**Where Would We Be Without Thee**” presented by local storyteller Loretta Washington. Several slave women, including Sojourner Truth, Harriet Scott, Harriet Tubman and others, are depicted in this presentation focusing on the hardships, struggles and challenges they encountered in their everyday lives and how they worked to overcome them.

**Friday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>** - 9:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

**Saturday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>** - 10:30 a.m. & 1:00 p.m.

Programs will be at the Historic Old Courthouse in the rotunda.

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**“Listening to the Still Small Voice: The Story of George Washington Carver”** presented by actor and playwright Paxton Williams, a graduate of Dr. Carver’s alma mater, Iowa State University. **Friday, February 29<sup>th</sup>** - 9:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m. Programs will be at the Historic Old Courthouse in the rotunda.

**Anniversary of the Dred Scott Decision** on March 6, 1857, the United States Supreme Court handed down its historic decision. The National Park Service will commemorate this historic event on

**Saturday, March 1<sup>st</sup>** with a series of presentations at the Historic Old Courthouse, the site of Scott’s first two trials.

10:30 a.m.-**“Listening to the Still Small Voice: The Story of George Washington Carver”** presented by actor and playwright Paxton Williams.

11:30 a.m.-**“Blow Family Memories”** presents a historic portrayal of Charlotte and

Taylor Blow, the daughter and son of Peter Blow, owner of Dred Scott. National Park Service Rangers Nancy Hoppe and Chris Anibal focus on the lives of the Blow Family children as they recount stories of their childhood growing up with Dred Scott.

12:00 p.m.-**Ruth Ann Hager** a certified genealogist from the St. Louis County Library presents a Power Point program about Dred Scott and his family and provides details of their lives while in St. Louis.

1:00 p.m.-**“Listening to the Still Small Voice: The Story of George Washington Carver”**

Paxton Williams will return to the Historic Old Courthouse rotunda to present an encore presentation.

2:00 p.m.-**Ranger-led Dred Scott 1850 Mock Trial** Through scripts based on this actual trial, park visitors will have the opportunity to play the roles of the judge, attorneys, plaintiff (Dred Scott), defendant (Irene Emerson), witness, jury, bailiff and court clerk. This mock trial will be conducted in one of the restored courtrooms on the second floor of the Historic Old Courthouse.

**School and community groups attending Thursday & Friday presentations must make reservations by calling (314) 655-1700 to ensure seating.**

**WHY:** African Americans have played central roles in some of the most triumphant and courageous moments in the history of the United States. During National African American History Month, the National Park Service will honor the rich heritage of African Americans and pay tribute to their many contributions to the nation through a month-long series of free performances and presentations.

The Historic Old Courthouse is open daily from 8:00 am to 4:30 pm. The Museum of Westward Expansion at the Gateway Arch Visitor Center is open daily from 9:00 am to 6:00 pm. All daily and special programs are FREE of charge. For reservations and additional information call 314-655-1700 or 7-1-1 Voice / TTY, Telecommunications Relay Services or you can visit our web site at: <http://www.nps.gov/jeff>

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EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA™

The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.