



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Jefferson National
Expansion Memorial

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Media Advisory

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DRED AND HARRIET SCOTT COMMEMORATION DAY **AT THE HISTORIC OLD COURTHOUSE**

WHERE: Jefferson National Expansion Memorial, Historic Old Courthouse, 11 North Fourth Street downtown St. Louis.

WHEN: **Saturday, March 6, 2010**

WHAT: Commemoration of the 153rd Anniversary of the Dred Scott family's struggle for freedom and the 1857 decision of the United States Supreme Court, which nullified the Missouri Compromise and allowed slavery within the U.S. territories in the west.

12:00 p.m. Concert: Normandy High School Jazz Band directed by Thomas Moore performs a collage of African American music from slavery to today.

1:00 p.m. "New Information from Dred and Harriet Scott: Their Family Story," presented by Ruth Ann Hager, author and certified genealogical lecturer, and Lynne Jackson, great-great-granddaughter of Dred and Harriet Scott and Founder of the Dred Scott Heritage Foundation.

2:00 p.m. Audience Participation Discussion with guest panelists Ruth Ann Hager; Lynne Jackson; David Konig, Professor of Law, History, and African American Studies at Washington University; and Ken Winn, former Missouri State Archivist and Visiting Professor at Washington University; and Dr. John A. Wright, retired school administrator, author of 11 books on St. Louis history and Honorary Consul of Senegal.

WHY: The U.S. Supreme Court's decision in the Dred Scott case was a major catalyst that touched off the Civil War. The decision was at the heart of Abraham Lincoln's debates with Stephen Douglas in 1858. The Thirteenth, Fourteenth, and Fifteenth Amendments to the U.S. Constitution were required to overturn the decision.

Special Films and Exhibits at the Historic Old Courthouse

"Slavery on Trail: The Dred Scott Decision"

A 17-minute film detailing the struggle for freedom of St. Louis slaves Dred and Harriet Scott, and the Supreme Court decision of 1857 that declared that African Americans had "no rights a white man was bound to respect."

"A Legacy of Courage: The Dred Scott Decision"

The exhibit presents the personal story of the Scotts, the story of the litigation and how the legal system worked, and also within the broad framework of the context of slavery and the ways in which people tried to escape from it during the 19th century.

The Historic Old Courthouse is open daily from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Jefferson National Parks Association supports the Educational Activities at the Museum of Westward Expansion and Old Courthouse. All programs are FREE of charge and open to the public.

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