



KNOTT HOUSE MUSEUM AND
JOHN G. RILEY CENTER & MUSEUM PRESENT

20TH OF MAY[®] EMANCIPATION IN FLORIDA

MONDAY, MAY 20, 2024 | KNOTT HOUSE MUSEUM, 301 EAST PARK AVENUE



10:00 a.m.

John G. Riley Center & Museum Civil War Commemorative Service at the Old City Cemetery

The 2nd Infantry Regiment USCT will perform a Union soldier reenactment with a traditional 21-gun salute to fallen soldiers. Members of the community will join in the ceremony of decorating the graves of Civil War soldiers.



11:00 a.m.

Church bells in the Tallahassee area will ring for 2 minutes to announce the dawning of the special day of freedom.

11:30 a.m.

Dramatic reading of the Emancipation Proclamation

Speeches and music are presented on the front steps of the Knott House Museum. This year's program features Dr. Reginald Ellis, Provost Professor of Community Outreach, Engagement, and Research at Florida A&M University, and the Mina String Quartet from the Tallahassee Symphony Orchestra. After the program, free lunch and activities are available in Lewis Park across from the Knott House Museum.



2-4:00 p.m.

Public tours of historic sites

The Grove Museum (902 N Monroe Street) and the Union Bank Museum (219 Apalachee Parkway) will be open to the public for tours.



EVENTS ARE FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

For more information, visit

20thofMay.com or call 850.245.6400



Additional community events are listed on the back.

SPONSORS/PARTNERS: City of Tallahassee • Ausley Family
Friends of the Museums of Florida History, Inc.

Sponsored by the State of Florida through the Florida Department of State, Division of Arts and Culture, and the Florida Council on Arts and Culture.



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF STATE



CITY OF
TALLAHASSEE



KNOTT HOUSE
MUSEUM



JOHN G. RILEY
CENTER / MUSEUM



Community events recognize the emancipation of enslaved persons in Florida and are free unless stated. For more information and a list of community celebrations, visit 20thofMay.com.

MAY 1-31

Division of Library and Information Services various resources at: bit.ly/3LgliVA

SATURDAY, MAY 11

10:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m., Walk Through Living History at Speed Spencer Stephens Park

Living history celebration and commemoration of the reading of the Proclamation in Florida. Family-friendly event for all ages.

Noon—1:00 p.m., “Emancipated: Now What?” Panel Discussion at Greater Mt. Zion Primitive Baptist Church (adjacent to Speed Spencer Stephens Park)

As a part of Walk Through Living History, Dr. Anthony Thompson, professor of African American History at Tallahassee Community College, will lead a panel discussion on the Emancipation Proclamation, events following May 20, 1865, and the impact of the document in the present day. For more information on this event go to

www.the2ndusctlha.org/wtlh

2:00—4:00 p.m., Nature Walk: 20th of May, Emancipation in Florida at The Grove Museum

The May Nature and History Walk will focus on reconstructing historical landscapes connected to the history of slavery and freedom in the Tallahassee red hills region.

MONDAY, MAY 13

6:00—7:00 p.m., “Unlocking History: Exploring Florida’s Emancipation Day” at the LeRoy Collins Leon County Public Library

Join the Leon County Public Library for an engaging presentation by Dr. Aron Myers from the John G. Riley Center & Museum as we delve into the rich history and celebration of Florida’s Emancipation Day! Learn more about this momentous event and expand your knowledge about the history of our Leon County community.

FRIDAY, MAY 17

5:30—11:00 p.m., Freedom’s Eve Emancipation Concert located at Adderley Amphitheater-Cascades Park

The Tallahassee Symphony will host a free Freedom’s Eve concert in the Adderley Amphitheater, with special guests Total Praise Choir and Baritone Marques J. Ruff. Food Trucks and Park/Kids Activities begin at 5:30 p.m. A pre-concert reception featuring food, entertainment, and interactive tabling and activities will run from 6:00 p.m.—7:45 p.m. Concert begins at 8:00 p.m.

SATURDAY, MAY 18

7:00—11:00 p.m., Emancipation and Abolitionist Ball at Parkview at Cascade Park (admission fee)

This formal event highlights the era with a special menu, entertainment, and attire representative of the period. Highlights of the event include historical presentations by the 2nd USCT and guests and the presentation of the Althemese Barnes Historic Preservation Award. This year’s recipient is Tallahassee native, Ms. Jacqueline Perkins. Visit www.the2ndusctlha.org for more information.

TUESDAY, MAY 28

Noon—12:45 p.m., History at High Noon at the R.A. Gray Building

Marcus Curtis, Geographic Information System (GIS) Specialist with Tallahassee-Leon County GIS and developer of the “History in your Hands” website, will discuss the fascinating Tallahassee connections and stories that were revealed through the website’s creation. Using aerial imagery and data from historical documents, the website allows people to explore details of the past. Through Curtis’s research, plantation boundaries, old roads, and other resources have been discovered. Join us to learn more about how GIS helps us understand our history.
