



# Ferguson Has a History Museum

Ferguson has a Historical Society and a History Museum. We encourage any people reading this article to join in the conversation or become a member. Contact information is at the bottom of this article.

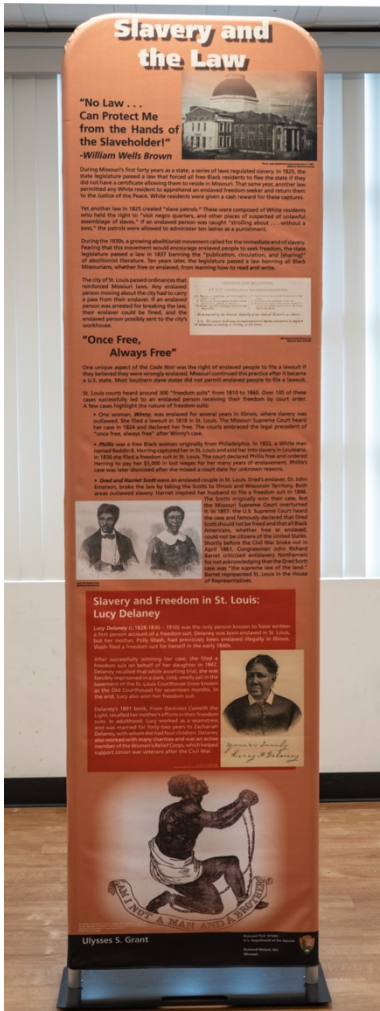
## A Wonderful Week!

During February 5<sup>th</sup> through 9<sup>th</sup> the Ferguson Historical Society hosted “Slavery in St. Louis”, a traveling exhibit on loan from the Ulysses S Grant National Historic Site designed by Nick Sacco, historian/curator. Rashad Timmons, doctoral candidate from the University of California Berkeley, whose research on Thomas T. January and the Northern Missouri Railroad brought a Ferguson focus to the event. Tuesday evening, February 6<sup>th</sup> was a Round-table discussion by Sacco and Timmons to an audience of 80+ local people – A wonderful community event. This article is for those who could not attend.

The slavery display consisted of nine panels as seen to the left. Topics covered included:

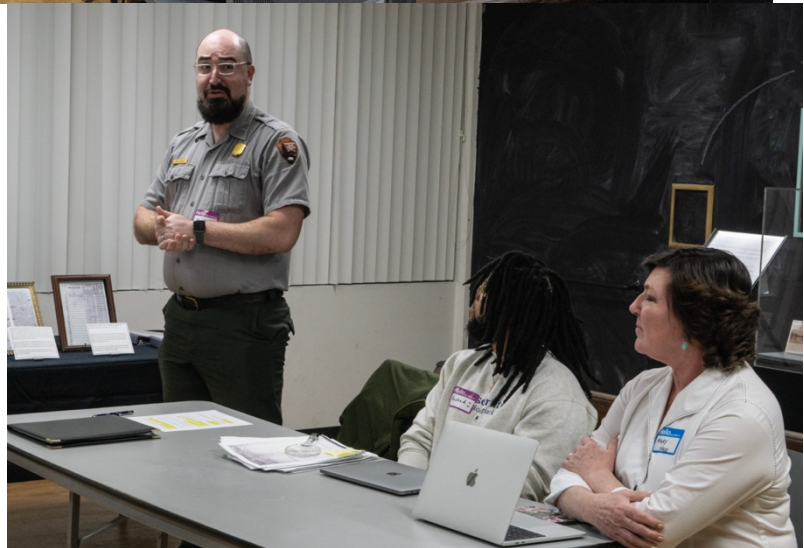
- A Society Built Upon Enslaved Labor*
- The Code Noir and the Missouri Compromise*
- Slavery and the Law*
- The Slave Trade in St. Louis*
- Resisting Slavery*
- Free People of Color in St. Louis*
- The Civil War and Emancipation*
- Black Life During Reconstruction*
- Finding a Gateway to the East*

Each panel gave detailed information relating to its topic. The image below gives you a look at the total room set up.





The Tuesday evening round-table proved to be a major Ferguson community event. 80+ people attended – from over the metro area and Illinois. The event featured discussions of Slavery in St. Louis and St. Louis County led by Nick Sacco (*standing*), from the Ulysses S. Grant National Historic Site and Rashad Timmons (*seated middle*) University of California Berkeley doctoral student (*who focused on Ferguson*). Host for the evening is Mary Haux, President of the Ferguson Historical Society (*seated right*).



Along with the nine-panel display, there were several other items relating directly to Ferguson. An exhibit highlight was an original, hand made church bench from the African-American Mount Olive Baptist Church – a church built mainly by the freed enslaved people from the January Farm (*no longer there*). Other items were collected by Rashad Timmons relating to slave rolls, various papers and evidence of slavery in the Ferguson

area along with maps of the St. Louis riverfront in 1832 and an 1854 St. Louis county map showing the North Missouri Railroad (later the Wabash) which currently runs through Ferguson and helped make Ferguson the important city it is.

The Tuesday round-table discussion seemed to create a close bond between the speakers and the community present. The audience demanded a community photo at the end.



The Ferguson Historical Society wants to especially thank Sacco (*left*) and Timmons (*right*) for the study and work they have done to put this exhibit together. FHS is honored to have hosted this exhibit for our community.

at [www.nps.gov/ulsg](http://www.nps.gov/ulsg)

If you want to access more about this exhibit, use your phone to scan the code to the right or look up the web site listed above the code.



Future issues of this Ferguson History Society report will be coming with more on Slavery in the St. Louis Metro Area – especially Ferguson.

*This story came from documents in the Ferguson Historical Society archives, along with information from the Ulysses S. Grant National Historical Site.)*

**Membership in the Ferguson Historical Society is open to anyone** – membership levels range from \$20.00 to \$50.00 a year. If you are interested in joining or have any suggestions, questions, or items to donate to the Ferguson Historical Society, please contact Jerry Benner at [fjbenner@mindspring.com](mailto:fjbenner@mindspring.com). You are also welcome to visit the History Museum at 1064 Smith (behind the Community Center) by e-mailing the above address. Note: we will need to schedule a date for you, so ask well in advance

***“The Ferguson Historical Society is dedicated to preserving and promoting the history of Ferguson Missouri. Membership is open to all sharing our interest.”***