



JOHN G. RILEY  
HOUSE & MUSEUM

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 14, 2014

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## John Riley Museum and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Infantry USCT allowed the public relive history through “Walk Through Living History”

**TALLAHASSEE** – The 2<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Regiment USCT Reenactment Unit and Living History Association in partnership with John G. Riley Center/Museum took the public back in time with their “Walk through Living History” event this past Saturday at Speed Spencer Stephens Park. This event is a part of the month-long celebration called the “Season of Emancipation” that commemorates the May 20, 1865 arrival of the Emancipation Proclamation to Florida (originally issued by President Lincoln in January 1863) which led to the subsequent end of enslavement of persons of African descent, at the conclusion of the Civil War.

The public enjoyed the festivity with a day full of live performances, heritage attractions, locally sourced food and wholesome fellowship. The celebration began with an ole fashion parade, which led the public into the park in grand style. Followed by a stirring welcome, by the multi-lingual Mr. Rahman Johnson and his lovely co-host Ms. Niekeisha Pryce. The “Walk Through Living History” event continued with a full-day of festivities including: local food truck and other local business vendors,



Band.

horseback rides, entertaining clowns, a historical dance around the Maypole, kiddie train rides, face painting for kids, living descendants of the Black Seminoles, Civil War and Buffalo Soldier Reenactors, Zumba fitness by Ms. Leslie Warren and much, much more. The event culminated with a jazz soiree perfect for a beautiful summer day by vocalist Ms. Avis Berry and the Leon Anderson



The 2<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Regiment U.S. Colored Troops Reenactment Unit and Living History Association was created in partnership with the John G. Riley



Museum and the Natural Bridge Historical Society to ensure the authenticity and accuracy of historical reenactments. Its guiding mission is to preserve protect, educate, promote, and interpret the accomplishments of the original soldiers of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Regiment USCT and their families. This event epitomizes their mission to show the past by reliving it in the present.

Although the *“Walk Through Living History”* ended last week, the *“Season of Emancipation”* will still allow the public to celebrate for the rest of May. From Florida Emancipation day to the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Emancipation & Abolitionist Ball, the public has plenty of opportunities to commemorate the official end of slavery in Florida on May 20, 1865 and honor this day as a momentous event in U.S. history.

The month of festivities will culminate on Saturday, May 24<sup>th</sup> with the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Emancipation & Abolitionist Ball from 8:00 p.m. to midnight at the McMillan National Guard Armory. Tickets are \$50 for individuals and \$75 for couples and can be purchased directly from the Riley Museum.

For more information on the exhibit or to schedule a group tour, please contact the Riley Museum at (850) 681-7881 or [info@rileymuseum.org](mailto:info@rileymuseum.org).

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