FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Mid-Continent Public Library Celebrates Black History Month

Greater Kansas City, MO – Mid-Continent Public Library will once again offer a wide range of programs and performances in honor of Black History Month. Throughout February, the Library’s branches will host a variety of educational events for all ages that are free to attend but require registration at mymcpl.org/BlackHistory.

Family & Kids Programs:

The Story of the Buffalo Soldiers
Experience the history of the African American Buffalo Soldiers, and discover how they distinguished themselves from the American frontier to the battlefields of World War II. (Ages 7 and up)

- Lee's Summit Branch – Wednesday, February 5, at 6:00 p.m.
- Blue Ridge Branch – Saturday, February 15, at 11:00 a.m.
- Midwest Genealogy Center – Thursday, February 20, at 2:00 p.m.

Underground Railroad: The Who, What, and Where Did It Go
Cultural historian Brother John shares the secret codes, symbols, agents, and songs of the Underground Railroad as well as added insight into this chapter in America's history. (Ages 8 and up)

- Boardwalk Branch – Saturday, February 8, at 11:00 a.m.
- Grandview Branch – Tuesday, February 18, at 5:30 p.m.
- Lee's Summit Branch – Saturday, March 14, at 11:00 a.m.

Tommy Terrific's Black Cowboys of the Old West
Tommy Terrific will perform an educational and interactive magic show about famous African American cowboys of the Old West, including Bill Pickett, Mary Fields, Nat Love, and Bass Reeves. (Ages 3 and up)

- Grandview Branch – Friday, February 21, at 11:30 a.m.
- Grain Valley Branch – Friday, February 21, at 2:30 p.m.
- Smithville Branch – Saturday, February 22, at 10:30 a.m.
- North Oak Branch – Saturday, February 22, at 3:00 p.m.
Cotton, Rag Dolls, and the Underground Railroad
Hear stories about people who helped escaped slaves travel to freedom in the North and the important role that rag dolls played in the journey. Then make your own rag doll with creative touches. (Ages 6 and up)
• Smithville Branch – Tuesday, February 25, at 6:30 p.m.

Adult Programs

George Washington Carver: America’s Leonardo da Vinci
Join rangers from the George Washington Carver National Monument for a look at Carver’s life, his efforts to help African American farmers, and his contributions to American society.
• Midwest Genealogy Center – Monday, February 3, at 2:00 p.m.
• North Independence Branch – Monday, February 3, at 6:00 p.m.

Blacks in Blue at the Battle of Westport
The substantial role of African Americans during the Battle of Westport is less well-known and sometimes omitted in historical discussions. Discover the key roles that African Americans played and their heroism under trying conditions at Westport.
• North Independence Branch – Thursday, February 6, at 6:00 p.m.

Born a Slave
His family has been identified as Caucasian for five generations; but after more than 30 years of genealogical research, local historian David W. Jackson discovers an ancestor who was born a slave.
• Midwest Genealogy Center – Tuesday, February 18, at 6:30 p.m.
• North Independence Branch - Wednesday, April 1, at 6:00 p.m.

Military Service by African Americans
African American military service history began with Colonial America. This presentation will help define the locations of veteran records while also uncovering under-utilized holdings of WWI and WWII collections. Follow the record trail to uncover your veterans’ military service.
• North Oak Branch – Tuesday, February 11, 6:30 p.m.
• Lee's Summit Branch – Saturday, February 22, at 2:00 p.m.
• Red Bridge Branch – Monday, February 24, at 7:00 p.m.

Through Time, Space, and DNA... Tracing Your Roots
Whether your interest in genealogy is old or new, there is always room to learn more about researching and preserving family history. Join the Midwest Afro-American Genealogical Interest Coalition (M.A.G.I.C.) and the Midwest Genealogy Center for a special open house and guest speaker exploring strategies and techniques for uncovering and preserving your family’s story.
• Midwest Genealogy Center – Saturday, February 29, 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Mid-Continent Public Library customers can also access a wide variety of resources for Black History Month, including online databases such as Black Thought and Culture and African American History Online at mymcpl.org/AfricanAmerican.

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Access Your World
Founded in 1965, Mid-Continent Public Library is the largest library system in the Kansas City metropolitan area, operating 32 branches and two Library-To-Go locations and serving more than 816,000 people in Jackson, Clay, and Platte Counties. MCPL is an award-winning library system that strives to enrich citizens and communities through expanding access to innovation, information, ideas, and inspiration. Connect with the Library on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.