



NATIONAL PERSONNEL  
RECORDS CENTER

## *National Archives at St. Louis*

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*1 Archives Drive St. Louis, Missouri 63138-1002*

February 1, 2012

### **Documented Rights Lecture Series Panel Discussion**

*The Emancipation Proclamation 150 Years: Pre and Post*

*St. Louis, MO.* . . . On Thursday, February, 2011, at 7:00 p.m., the National Archives at St. Louis will feature a panel discussion titled ***Emancipation Proclamation 150 Years: Pre and Post*** This event will take place at the new National Archives facility at 1 Archives Drive (1829 Dunn Road), St. Louis, MO, 63138 (next to Hazelwood East Middle School on Dunn Road).

This program, which is free and open to the public, is held in conjunction with *Documented Rights*, an exhibition that showcases milestone documents drawn from National Archives holdings nationwide to illustrate this nation's continuing process of defining human and civil rights. A panel of distinguished scholars will examine moments in history leading up the Emancipation proclamation's passage, black response to the measure, strides in education since 1863 and Jackie Robinson's court martial by the U.S. Army for refusing to give up his seat on a military bus.

Among the many historical records featured, visitors will find documents (facsimiles) from the landmark *Brown v. Board of Education* court case, Jackie Robinson's court marital by the U.S. Army for refusing to give up his seat on a military bus, Meredith Evers efforts to enroll in the University of Mississippi and a host of historic documents from our St. Louis holdings as well as various locations from around the country.

The *Documented Rights* exhibit runs through May 31, 2012, at the National Archives at St. Louis' new facility (online exhibit at [www.archives.gov/exhibits/documented-rights](http://www.archives.gov/exhibits/documented-rights)). The exhibit is open Monday – Friday (except Federal holidays) from 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

**Panel Moderator:**

**Bonita Cornute** is one of St. Louis' most distinguished broadcast journalists. Currently working as Fox 2's Contact 2 Consumer Affairs Reporter, this award winning journalist has spent more than 20 years delivering news to the St. Louis community. Cornute earned her Bachelor of Arts from the University of Wisconsin at Madison. A journalist deeply in touch with the local community, Cornute is committed to giving voice to a myriad of complex issues that affect women and underrepresented groups.

Prior to joining Fox 2, she worked as producer for KETC-TV where she co-produced and co-hosted several public affairs programs. Cornute was recently one of six St. Louis professionals honored by the Coalition of 100 Black Women (St. Louis Chapter) for her outstanding contribution as a journalist and community advocate. Cornute is the recipient four local Emmy Awards, the Quest Award from the National Federation of Press, Excellence in Journalism Award (National Association of Women Legislators), NAACP Crisis Magazine Role Model of the Year Award, Shero Award, Lincoln University's Unity Award, Excellence in Journalism Award from the Greater St. Louis Association of Black Journalists and a host of awards and recognitions from more than a dozen different area organizations.

**Panel Speakers:**

**Dr. Louis Saxton Gerteis** is a professor of history at the University of Missouri-St. Louis where he specializes in 19<sup>th</sup> Century United States, Slavery and Emancipation and Civil War and Reconstruction history. Gerteis will examine Missouri's role as a border state and events leading up to the passage of the Emancipation Proclamation. His most recent publications include *Civil War St. Louis* and *An Outrage on Humanity: Martial Law and Military Prisons in St. Louis During the Civil War*. Other publications include: *From Contraband to Freedman: Federal Policy Toward Southern Blacks: 1861-1865* and *The Mortality and Utility in American Antislavery Reform* and numerous journal articles and book chapters. Gerteis also directs the Virtual city Project, a website containing three dimensional interactive models of St. Louis from each decade spanning from 1850 to 1950. Over his career he has been the recipient of numerous grants and fellowships. Gerteis earned his Master of Arts and Ph.D. in history from the University of Wisconsin-Madison (1969).

**Mr. James Vincent, Sr.** is cofounder of The St. Louis African American History and Genealogy Society (AAHS). He currently chairs AAHS's state committee's for Missouri, Kansas and Illinois. Vincent will discuss African American response to the Emancipation Proclamation's passage in 1863 and beyond. As a lecturer Vincent blends his legal training and research skills to bring unique perspectives to African American history and genealogy. His focuses his research on 19<sup>th</sup> to early 20<sup>th</sup> century African American. Mr. Vincent lectures at colleges, churches and civic groups. Vincent also works as a consultant to authors and writers, African American museums and national institutions. In 1991 he was invited to testify before the U. S. Congress as an expert in connection with National Underground Railroad to Freedom Act of 1992. Vincent earned his Bachelor of Arts in history and foreign affairs from Webster

University, and a Masters Degree in marketing from Washington University. He also holds a *Juris Doctorate* from St. Louis University Law School.

**Dr. Priscilla A. Dowden-White** is an assistant professor of history at the University of Missouri St. Louis where she teaches United States history. Dowden-White will present a paper titled, *Educating Missouri's Black Citizenry from Emancipation to Brown*. Her area of research includes the following: social welfare and civic activism among African Americans (World War I and World War II), Latin American History and African Studies. Dowden-White is the author of *Groping Toward Democracy in a Jim Crow City: African Americans Social Welfare Community Organization in St. Louis, 1910-1949*. In addition to numerous book reviews and scholarly conference papers Dowden-White is the author of the chapter "To See Past the Difference to the Fundamentalists: Racial Cooperation Within the St. Louis League of Women Voters," in the book, *Women Shaping the South: Creating and Confronting Change* (2005). Dowden-White is the recipient of numerous distinguished academic fellowships and grants. In addition to her current position she's taught at University of Ghana in Africa, Cornell and Indiana Universities and Fontbonne College. Dowden-White earned her Master of Arts in African American Studies from Cornell University (1987) and her Ph.D. in history from Indiana University (1997).

U.S. Military History at the Missouri University of Science and Technology where he teaches courses on the Civil War, World War II, the Vietnam war, military history, and the American combat experience in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. McManus will discuss the attack on Pearl Harbor and U.S. response. The History News Network recently named McManus to its prestigious list of top young historians. He's the author of *The Deadly Brotherhood: The American Combat Soldier in World War II* (1998), *Deadly Sky: The American Combat Airman in World War II* (2000), *The Americans at D-Day: The American Experience at the Normandy Invasion* (2004), *The Americans at Normandy: The Summer of 1944, the American War from the Beaches to Falaise* (2004), *Alamo in the Ardennes: The Untold Story of the American Soldiers who made the Defense of Bastogne Possible* (2007) His latest book, *Grunts: Inside the American Infantry Combat Experience, World War II through Iraq*, (NAL/Penguin, 2010), explores the many realities of modern combat. McManus is also a frequent contributor to *World War II* magazine and is also member of the magazine's editorial advisory board. He earned his Masters of Arts in American history from the University of Missouri (1991) and his Ph. D. in American and military history from the University of Tennessee (1996).

For more information, contact Wanda Williams at 314-801-9313 or [wanda.williams@nara.gov](mailto:wanda.williams@nara.gov).

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