

On October 15, Joe McGill, Jr. of the Slave Dwelling Project joined Riverside, Farmington, Locust Grove, and Oxmoor for an inaugural collaborative event to highlight the history of slavery at the respective sites, and to explore how that history is relevant today. Joe McGill, Jr. is an educator, Civil War reenactor, and descendant of enslaved people. The Slave Dwelling Project began in 2010 at Magnolia Plantation in South Carolina and has since spread to 23 states at 150 historic sites. McGill's work has focused on changing the narrative, one slave dwelling at a time, as he attempts to spend the night in every former slave dwelling still standing in the United States. The Slave Dwelling Project has attracted national attention, and McGill has been interviewed for *The New York Times*, *Smithsonian Magazine*, *Curbed*, and *HistoryNet*.

"It is a pleasure that through this pandemic, historic sites are still building relationships with the descendants of enslaved people," states McGill. He first visited Louisville in August 2019 for a series of events at Locust Grove. These four local historic sites held this first virtual event to usher in a series of events, both in person and online, in the coming months and beyond.

The first virtual event was a great success! Ninety-eight people registered and 78 attended the program. They came from all over: Washington state, Texas, Wisconsin, Virginia, South Carolina and even Canada. Many Louisvillians were on the Zoom call as well. The discussion was lively and fascinating. The audience reaction was extremely positive and it's clear there is great interest in this aspect of our history.

Our next virtual collaborative conversation will be held on April 8, 2021. It will be posted on our website when all the details are available.

Participating Historic Homes:



Program Sponsors:



- 1. Tours Are Back!** Riverside re-opened for limited capacity tours in late June. Tours are offered on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays. Advance reservations are required (through our website or by phone). Masks must be worn and safe social distance must be maintained.
- 2. Archaeology Is Back!** By late summer, we re-introduced our archaeology program to the public. All participants need to book in advance and wear a mask. Advanced reservations are required through our website or by phone.
- 3. How Does Our Garden Grow?** A view from the Riverside Garden of the house and kitchen. A big thank you to our Friends of the Riverside Garden group, especially Mike and Mary Jo Kolb, Tammy Corbett, Trisha Smith-Kolb and Nola Lillie for all they did this season to ensure that the kitchen garden flourished! Riverside volunteers make it happen.
- 4. A special shout out** to the group of Latter-day Saints missionaries who have been volunteering their time and muscle to help us revamp our farm equipment exhibit behind the historic house. They are terrific workers. Thank you!

WEBSITE
www.riverside-landing.org

SPECIAL NOTE:
During the pandemic,
all tours must be
booked in advance
online or by phone.
Tour days and
times may vary,
please check our
website first.

**Grounds Are Open
Year-Round**
Sunrise to sunset
seven days a week



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RIVERSIDE

THE FARNSELY - MOREMEN LANDING
7410 Moorman Road
Louisville, Kentucky 40272



KENTUCKY LOCAL HISTORY TRUST FUND
Publicly funded. Administered by the Kentucky Historical Society.

We are excited about our brand-new exhibit in the Visitors Center entitled "The People." This new exhibit highlights new research about the enslaved people who lived and worked at Riverside in addition to new information on the Farnsley and Moremen families. Riverside is committed to honest and accurate history—and to being a space where we can explore our shared history and humanity. This project was supported by funding from the Kentucky Local History Trust Fund (KRS 171.325), a program administered by the Kentucky Historical Society. For more information, see history.ky.gov/local-history-fund.



Dear Friend of Riverside,

To say 2020 has been an unprecedented year would be an understatement. Despite the unforeseen disruptions to our operation, we are still here!

In mid-March, we were required to close the buildings for tours, special events and rentals. By late June, we re-opened for limited tours and small in-person programs. However, all rentals and community events are cancelled for the rest of 2020. Throughout all these months, the grounds have remained open sunrise to sunset for people to enjoy—and many thousands of people have.

As you can see in these pages, our staff hasn't been sitting still. We developed new protocols for limited in-person tours and programs and then implemented a new on-line booking system. We generated new digital activities and participated in the all-virtual Summer Cultural Pass. We created a "Family Hands-on History Adventure Box" filled with engaging information, puzzles, games and activities for families to take home and enjoy. We're creating a new virtual field trip experience for school children who won't be able to visit us in-person for a while. We are in the process of staging a new outdoor exhibit for our farm equipment, and we have new outdoor interpretative signage in the works.

We have also taken some time to engage in new historical research—and we have made some fascinating new discoveries. (See the story inside.) Finally, we have submitted grant applications for some exciting new projects we want to implement in early 2021. Stay tuned.

We appreciate the support you have shown us during this difficult time. Your continued interest, concern and investment in the site keeps us going.

Stay safe and healthy. We look forward to seeing you at Riverside again in the future for a full-range of in-person tours, events and programs. In the meantime, rest assured we will continue to create opportunities to engage with Riverside's history in keeping with our mission.

Sincerely,
Reba Doutrick Reba Doutrick
Riverside Chair
Patti Linn Patti Linn
Historic Site Manager

**RIVERSIDE,
THE FARNSELY-
MOREMEN
LANDING
EXISTS TO
PROMOTE,
PRESERVE,
RESTORE AND
INTERPRET
HISTORIC
FARM LIFE
ON THE OHIO.**

THE THOMAS AND ALEXANDER FAMILIES

New archival research at Riverside has uncovered information that traces the paths taken by two families from slavery to freedom. Their stories offer insight into how formerly enslaved people navigated this complicated and challenging transition.

Richard Moremen Thomas, who was enslaved at Riverside, served in the 123rd Regiment of the U.S. Colored Infantry from September 1864 until September 1865. The records from Richard's pension file, including those connected to his wife Kitty's efforts to claim her widow's pension after his death, revealed a wealth of information about their family that was new to us.

When Richard joined the Union Army, he became one of the approximately 185,000 African American men who served during the Civil War to fight for their freedom. After the War, Richard was plagued with serious health issues related to illnesses contracted during his military service. The Thomas family returned to Riverside following the war to work for several years as paid servants. Later, they moved around the neighborhood working for other area families. By the early 1890s, Richard and Kitty had moved to live with their son Charles in Mississippi County, Missouri. Richard died there. His wife Kitty ultimately succeeded in receiving her widow's pension for Richard's service. She moved back to Louisville and lived downtown with her granddaughters until her death in 1921.

We recently discovered depositions in Richard's file from two other people who were enslaved at Riverside: Lewis Alexander (1839-1915) and his wife Sydney Alexander (1837-1910). The Alexanders both provided depositions in 1899 in support of Kitty Thomas's claim for a widow's pension. Lewis Alexander stated that he "stood up with" Richard when Richard married Kitty at the Moremen family plantation in Brandenburg, KY in 1857. (This is interesting because legal marriage was rarely permitted by slave holders.)

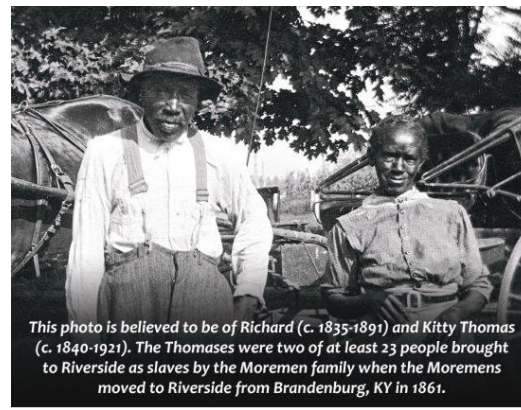
Lewis and his wife were both enslaved in Brandenburg and moved to Riverside with the Moremens in 1860. They evidently remained at Riverside until the 13th Amendment freed all slaves in Kentucky in 1865. In 1899, at the time they gave their depositions, the Alexanders were living on Magazine Street in Louisville.

Ongoing research into the Alexanders has led to some fascinating information: three of their daughters became educators in Louisville's segregated school system. All three remained single and each taught for decades. The oldest of the three, Sydney Belle Alexander (1864-1945), was born into slavery at Riverside and later taught at what was called Eastern Colored School.

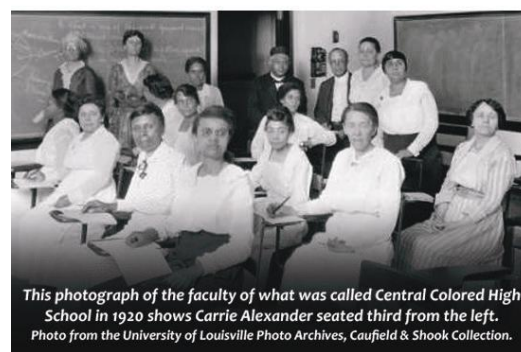
The second daughter Emma J. Alexander (1865-1947) was born a slave as well. She later became the valedictorian of the first graduating class of "Colored High School" in 1884, later Central Colored High School. Emma became a teacher at the Sixteenth and Magazine School.

The youngest sister, Carrie Alexander (1872-1947), taught at Central Colored High School and is pictured in the photograph of the school's faculty from 1920 included here.

We are eager to learn more about the Thomas and Alexander families. Watch for more information as research continues.



This photo is believed to be of Richard (c. 1835-1891) and Kitty Thomas (c. 1840-1921). The Thomases were two of at least 23 people brought to Riverside as slaves by the Moremen family when the Moremens moved to Riverside from Brandenburg, KY in 1861.



This photograph of the faculty of what was called Central Colored High School in 1920 shows Carrie Alexander seated third from the left. Photo from the University of Louisville Photo Archives, Caulfield & Shook Collection.



FAMILY HANDS-ON HISTORY ADVENTURE BOX

Our staff created a "Family Hands-on History Adventure Box" filled with information, puzzles, games and activities for families to take home and enjoy. Each activity is designed to pique the interest of "history detectives" of all ages. The box can be used to supplement a tour experience or can be purchased as a stand-alone. It's available through our website's booking feature for \$15.

MONARCH BUTTERFLIES RELEASED

Riverside's staff hatched and released several monarch butterflies this fall. This photo shows the final monarch release of the season.



SPECIAL THANKS TO ALL OF OUR DONORS AND MEMBERS

Thanks to all of you who have contributed through your memberships and gifts in 2020 thus far!

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7410 Moorman Road, Louisville, KY 40272

IN MEMORIAM: NANCY BRUNER

We were sad to learn of the recent passing of long-time Riverside garden volunteer Nancy Bruner. We've included a photo of Nancy selling produce from the Riverside garden at one of our events several years ago. Nancy worked for years as a devoted member of the Riverside garden volunteers. She loved flowers and was a very knowledgeable gardener. She also loved monarch butterflies. For a few years she actually participated in efforts to tag these tiny creatures to help track their migration patterns--and help them to flourish. It seemed especially fitting for us to participate in hatching and releasing monarchs this year in Nancy's memory.



GABRIEL FARNSLEY MADE HIS MARK AT RIVERSIDE, NOW IT'S YOUR CHANCE TO MAKE YOUR OWN!

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The brick signed by Gabriel Farnsley, first owner of the 1837 Farnsley-Moremen House.

Be a part of the exciting effort to keep "history on the move" at Riverside by purchasing a commemorative brick. Help us complete our capital expansion and open more of this beautiful historic property for public use.



A sample commemorative brick.

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