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**South Carolina State Parks > #BlackHistoryMonth**

at 13:30:29 on 2/04/2021 UTC · 🌐

To celebrate Black History Month, meet park ranger, James Washington, and read his story. James Washington Sr. (1929-2016) grew up on a cotton farm next to Poinsett State Park and began working at the park about 1942 when he was only 13. When Washington began his career, the park was still segregated, but during his time as a park ranger he saw the many changes brought by World War II, increased automobile travel, the Civil Rights movement, and the creation of the modern Department of Parks, Recreation & Tourism.

In 1976 Washington explained the contributions of his whole family: "This park has been good for my children. My wife worked in the restaurant we had here in the 1950s . . . my father did some part-time work here years ago. Jobs were hard to find when I went to work here."

In addition to his park work, James was an avid gardener, farmer and mathematician. We are grateful for his 40 years of public service, which had an important impact on the history of State Parks in South Carolina.

#BlackHistoryMonth

[www.southcarolinaparks.com/poinsett](http://www.southcarolinaparks.com/poinsett)



**Jennie Morris Goff** Nice article. Didn't realize Poinsett had a restaurant there at one time.

at 13:34:24 on 2/04/2021 UTC



**Shane Mac** good one

at 13:52:54 on 2/04/2021 UTC

**Tags:** deleted



**George Gordon Sr** James was one of my hero's and I enjoyed working with him, I always called him the gentle

at 13:54:20 on 2/04/2021 UTC



**George Gordon Sr** James was one of my hero's and I enjoyed working with him, I always called him the gentle giant. Thank you for your service James & RIP

at 14:02:28 on 2/04/2021 UTC



**Blair Davis Brown** Kelly Mullany Dewey I ♥ people.

at 14:26:19 on 2/04/2021 UTC



**Porchia Moore** Adrienne Troy-Frazier Adrienne Shana Elmsford Herb Frazier

at 14:34:22 on 2/04/2021 UTC



**Frank White** ♥♥♥Many Happy Times at this Park- Thank You

at 14:57:40 on 2/04/2021 UTC



**Jackie Donboch** Thank you James.

at 14:59:49 on 2/04/2021 UTC



**Jen Wladischkin** Love his smile, looks like he enjoyed his work.  
at 15:18:23 on 2/04/2021 UTC



**Alan C. Alexander** Thank you, James !  
at 15:42:17 on 2/04/2021 UTC



**Pam Perrot Blackwell** I love Poinsett park!  
at 16:08:36 on 2/04/2021 UTC



**Jeanette Jache Canada** ♥  
at 20:36:46 on 2/04/2021 UTC



**Brendi Koweta** Service Before Self..hero to State Parks & humanity! 🇺🇸  
at 21:46:50 on 2/04/2021 UTC



**Eat Stay Play Beaufort** Wow such a wonderful story!  
at 22:45:09 on 2/04/2021 UTC



**Linda Mizell McAllister** This is a great story. Poinsett Park is the next stop on our state park visits  
at 23:28:43 on 2/04/2021 UTC



**Sue Ledford** Wonderful story  
at 1:33:06 on 2/05/2021 UTC



**Dori R. Simpson** Very impressive work ethic!!!! ♥SC Park Life!!!!  
at 1:43:11 on 2/05/2021 UTC



**Elizabeth Mustakas** <3 JAMES WASHINGTON FOREVER ♥  
at 1:44:55 on 2/05/2021 UTC



**Nancy Stump Smith** Thank you!!!  
at 2:36:06 on 2/05/2021 UTC



**Natalie Stephens** Tariq Jamaal Stephens  
at 5:10:25 on 2/05/2021 UTC



**Lower Savannah River Alliance** Thank you for your service!  
at 6:16:15 on 2/05/2021 UTC



**Tim Keown** Hunter Morton would be a neat story to share in your class for Black History month!  
at 11:13:54 on 2/05/2021 UTC



**Theresa Preachers Boettjer** Thank you for sharing. I love the stories  
at 14:08:04 on 2/05/2021 UTC



**Cathy Mellon Simpson** Great story!  
at 18:07:39 on 2/05/2021 UTC

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**Sandra Ardis** Very nice man, my Dad, Henry Ardis, worked along with James and Dave Thompson, also a very nice black gentleman. Mr Dave worked mostly at Millcreek State Park which was for black people and Poinsett was for white people. When segregation ended , they closed Millcreek and opened Poinsett to all. Mr. James and my dad built the coquina rock chimney at Santee State Park lodge. There is a sign with their names on it thanking them.

at 1:04:24 on 2/06/2021 UTC



**Terri Evans** I remember Mr James

at 2:20:39 on 2/06/2021 UTC



**Eddiie E Hart** Very extraordinary man bless is family

at 5:01:01 on 2/06/2021 UTC

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**Vincent Crosby** I like this post. How about recognising some more of the locals at Edisto. Nathan is one name that comes to mind. but there were many others. Sally ,Tony, Earl amongst a few.

at 11:23:38 on 2/06/2021 UTC



**Maggie Ruth Cochrane** Thank you sir! I love Poinsettia State Park... God bless you and thank you for your family and dedication of this beautiful much loved park. ♥usususus

at 15:35:22 on 2/06/2021 UTC



**Allen Daigle** Beautiful life , beautiful story !!!

at 17:08:33 on 2/06/2021 UTC



**Sandra Funderburk Urquhart** we used to go there to swim

at 23:47:32 on 2/06/2021 UTC



**Michael Farmer** So he basically worked there for x amount of years... Why is that exceptional?

at 5:32:34 on 2/07/2021 UTC



**Patsy Utsey Sowell** Thank you for your service the SC State Parks!

at 23:09:53 on 2/07/2021 UTC

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**Kay W. McCutcheon** Wonderful story. Most people who spend their entire lives working in the natural resource/public use arena have this kind of "ownership" of their workplaces. BTW, Poinsett State Park is truly a hidden gem. Check it out if you haven't visited before.

at 18:29:10 on 2/08/2021 UTC