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To celebrate Black History Month, meet park ranger, James Washington, and read his story. [#BlackHistoryMonth](#) pic.twitter.com/uy5FavW74i

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



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