

[Arts](#)

Special Programs for Martin Luther King Day

By [Deborah Hornblow](#)



East Hartford storyteller and museum interpreter Tammy Denease portrays a slave who earns her freedom in Old Sturbridge Village's "The Mumpet Story." Credit Old Sturbridge Village

One Slave's Story at Sturbridge Village

To honor of Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Old Sturbridge Village in Sturbridge, Mass., presents *Honoring a Slave Heroine: The 'Mumbet Story'* featuring East Hartford-based storyteller and museum educator Tammy Denease. The *Mumbet* performance is based on

the true story of Elizabeth "Mumbet" Freeman, a young woman who was a slave for 30 years before hiring a lawyer and winning her freedom in court in 1781. Storyteller Denease grew up in Mississippi listening to stories told by her great-grandmother, a former slave who lived to the age of 125. "It's amazing to me that living now, nearly 150 years after the Emancipation Proclamation that, I personally knew – and loved dearly – someone who survived slavery," Denease says. "I draw on my great-grandmother's own life story for inspiration when portraying Mumbet." In addition to the *Mumbet* story, Old Sturbridge Village also presents a portrayal of famous suffragist and anti-slavery orator Abby Kelley Foster, whose Worcester, Mass., farm became a stop on the Underground Railroad.

Old Sturbridge Village is open year-round, but hours vary seasonally. The museum is at 1 Sturbridge Village Road, Sturbridge, Mass. For more information and directions, visit www.osv.org or call 800-SEE-1830.